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GEORGE LOPEZ UP TO FUNNY BUSINESS {page 15}

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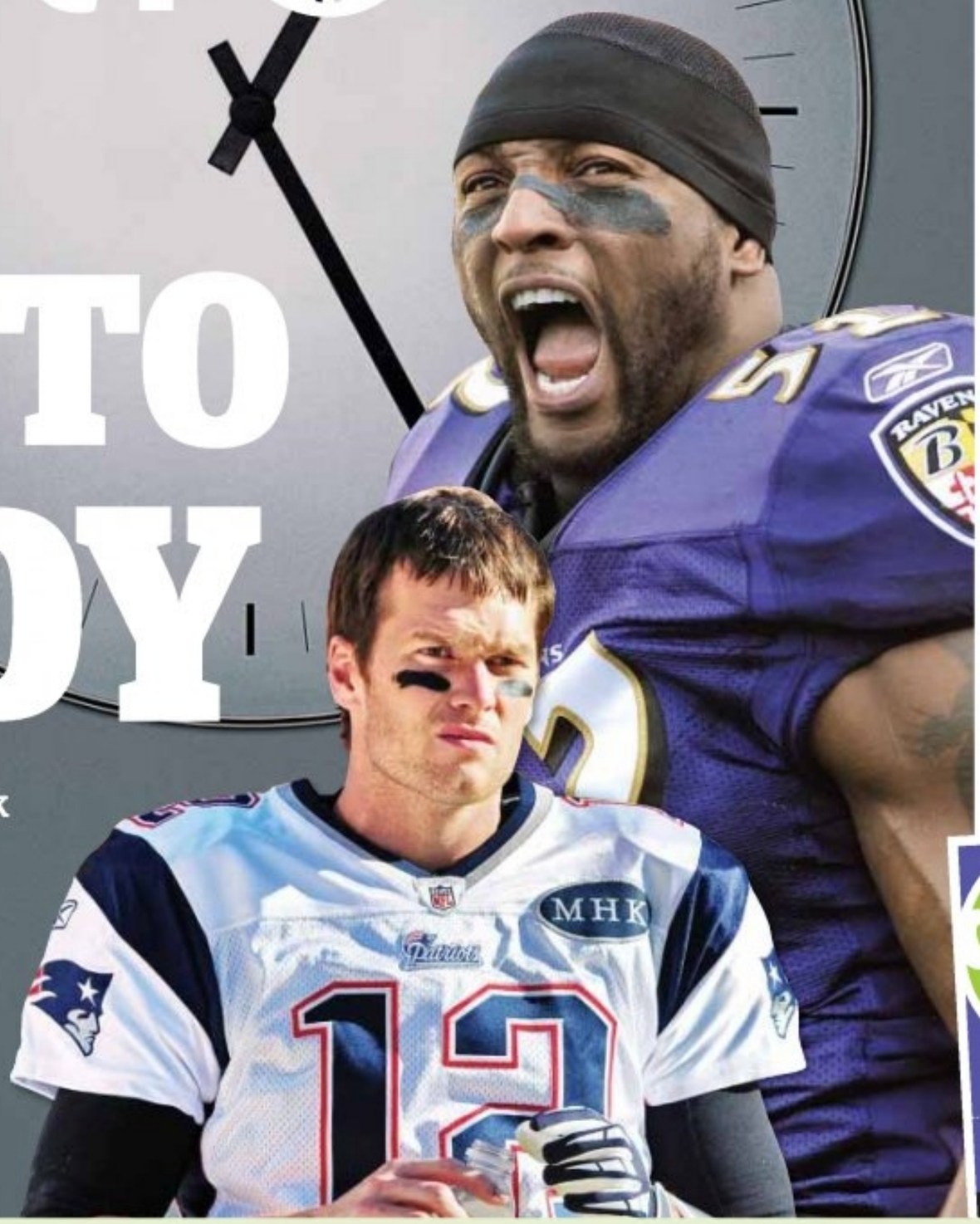
60 TO INDY

- Super Bowl XLVI clock ticking on Patriots, Ravens
- Brady, Lewis and Reed's last shot at NFL immortality?
- What you should know for Sunday's AFC championship game {pages 17-20}



UNTOLD BLACK TALES ARE SHARED AT LAST WITH 'RED TAILS'
FILMS {page 08}

DEEP THOUGHTS ... COURTESY OF J.LO'S DANCER BOYFRIEND
THE WORD {page 12}

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Riders shipwrecked?

- T's plan to abandon ships would leave thousands stranded
- Charlestown residents start petition to fight possible ferry cuts

Thousands of workers who rely on the ferry system to ship them to and from their jobs every day are rallying against the MBTA's proposal to anchor all boat transportation.

For Elianna Nuzum, who lives in the Charlestown Navy Yard, eliminating the ferry she takes regularly would be devastating.

"I would have very limited public transit options," said Nuzum, who moved to the Navy Yard because it was easier to get to her job in the Financial District via boat.

Nuzum said she could take the 93 bus that runs through her area, but it's usually jampacked. "It is often overflowing ... [and] cannot pick up additional passengers," she said.

A problem that will only get worse if all the former ferry riders have to rely on that bus, said Nuzum.

Much like Charlestown residents, people outside Boston who rely on ferry services have been fighting the proposed cuts.

In Hull, riders started a website called "SavetheFerry.com," and have been collecting signatures for a petition. Commuters from both Hull and Hingham would have a significantly less direct route to work if the ferry services were eliminated. And if riders dare return to their car, the commuting time would nearly double.

"The Hingham and Hull commuter boats are a critically important mode of transportation," State Rep. Garrett Bradley recently said in a statement. "To eliminate this service would severely impact individuals."

T officials have said the potential cuts, which would dock all ferry services, are just "a proposal."

Nothing is set in stone, according to Joe Pesaturo, a T spokesman.

"It's important to note that the users of commuter boats have alternative public transit modes available to them," Pesaturo said in an e-mail.

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ The MBTA's commuter boats could be sailing in to the sunset.

STEVE ANNEAR
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Ferry numbers

MBTA ferry services stats:

200
Number of signatures Charlestown residents have collected to fight the T's proposal

4,137
Average weekday commuter boat ridership, 2009

1.5M
Total ferry ridership, 2009

Quoted

"Because of overcrowded buses that don't stop or less crowded buses that don't wait ... it takes me longer to get to work by bus."
SUSAN ROBB, CHARLESTOWN

Quoted

"The Charlestown Commuter Boat is reliable. It is the only form of truly reliable public transportation the MBTA offers."
JENNIFER SCHULTZ, CHARLESTOWN

In the news

Menino makes another bet on Patriots game

The Patriots have more than just a trip to the Super Bowl riding on Sunday's game. They have lobsters and crab cakes. Mayor Thomas Menino on Thursday bet Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake on the outcome of Sunday's game against the Ravens. Menino put up lobsters and Rawlings-Blake put up crab cakes. With last week's win against Denver, Menino "won" making Denver's mayor wear a Tom Brady jersey in public. METRO

Today's local tweet

"Go ahead man on the Orange Line, get two knuckles deep in your nose and then proceed to flick your findings all over."
@RYANMARTIN3 AS HE WATCHED A FELLOW COMMUTER ON HIS RIDE HOME THURSDAY.

Unemployment drops, but jobs numbers flat

MASSACHUSETTS. Employment in the Bay State has remained largely flat over the last six months, with employers adding an anemic 400 jobs since June 2011. But following sharp gains in July, employers entered a five-month period in which they shed 10,000 jobs, a trend capped Thursday by the announcement that the state saw a 6,200-job decrease in December.

6.8% December's jobless rate fell from 7 percent in November, according to statistics released Thursday by the state.

The separate methods to gather job stats can sometimes paint conflicting trends. SHNS

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ Mass. got two "F" grades.

Report: Mass. fails on smoking prevention

MASSACHUSETTS. The Bay State can do a better job when it comes to reducing tobacco use, according to an American Lung Association report released Thursday. The state earned two "F" grades, but earned a "B" for its cigarette tax and an "A" for smoke-free air. The adult smoking rate is 14.1 percent, according to the report. METRO

F The Bay State flunked two categories on the American Lung Association's annual "State of Tobacco Control" report card. The categories are tobacco prevention and control spending and cessation coverage.

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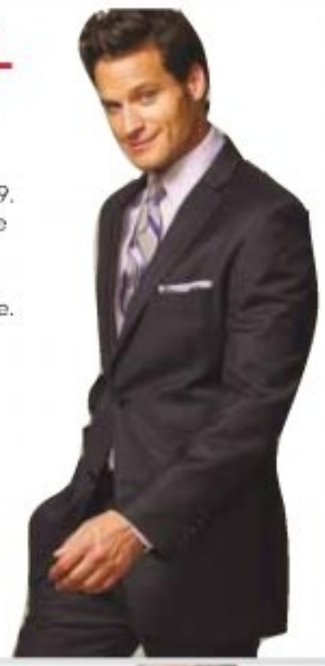

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Police nab $152K of coke at Logan

Two men from Puerto Rico were nabbed at Logan Airport on Wednesday after a state police dog sniffed out four kilos of cocaine in their suitcases as they arrived in Boston.

Adam Miranda, 18, and Luis Robles, 24, both of San Juan, were charged with trafficking cocaine over 200 grams.

State police troopers and agents from the Drug Enforcement Administration and Immigration and Customs Enforcement approached the two men, who were traveling together on a San Juan to Boston flight, at about 7:15 p.m. after they landed.

COURTESY OF MASSACHUSETTS STATE POLICE

▶ The cocaine that was sniffed out by a police dog.

According to police, "Rocky," a state police dog, was alerted to two of the men's suitcases after an initial interview with officers "that didn't check out."

After getting written consent from both men police searched their luggage.

Police discovered four kilos of a "white substance" believed to be cocaine.

Both men were arrested and held overnight.

Police said the street value of the drugs was roughly $32,000 to $38,000 per kilo.

Both men pleaded not guilty during their arraignment Thursday and were held on $200,000 cash bail.

STEVE ANNEAR
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Rights. Signed

▶ Bill supporters and their families gathered around Gov. Deval Patrick as he ceremonially signed in to effect the Trangender Equal Rights Bill.

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

Transgender rights become law

Gov. Deval Patrick held a ceremonial bill signing Thursday of "An Act Relative to Gender Identity" also known as the Transgender Equal Rights Bill. Proponents said the law provides greater legal protections from discrimination in employment, housing, eduction and credit for transgender residents. The law takes effect July 1. METRO

Quincy man is stabbed near T stop

A 22-year-old man was in critical condition after being stabbed twice in the chest near the Quincy Center MBTA station Wednesday.

According to police reports, officers arrested 17-year-old Marvin Lindor, of Quincy, and two juveniles after they were identified by witnesses.

The suspects were charged with assault and battery by means of a dangerous weapon.

Police said the victim's father, who was present during the incident, had parked his car on Burgin Parkway and went to his son's aid.

According to reports, the father was also punched and kicked by the group.

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POLITICAL REALISM FOR THE URBAN PROLETARIAT

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An interesting thing happened this week: By responding positively to Wednesday's anti-SOPA/PIPA Internet blackouts, Republican lawmakers actually made Democrats look like the ones grossly out of touch with mainstream opinion.

The protests — led by such Web behemoths as Google, Wikipedia and Reddit and supported by millions of avid 'net surfers — represented an almost unheard-of effort on the part of "real Americans." According to Google, whose website Wednesday sported a censored doodle and directed visitors to a petition aimed at Congress, 4.5 million people signed to protest legalizing permanent changes to the Internet.

And as the people spoke, at least one party listened. Droves of Republicans retracted support for the bills. Sen. **Rand Paul** promised a filibuster. Tea Party favorite Sen. **Jim DeMint** spoke out against the proposals' danger. Even House Speaker (and perpetual stick-in-the-mud) **John Boehner** ceded the bills' "lack of consensus."

On the other side, stalwart defenders of Mickey Mouse include the predictable cadre of Hollywood beneficiaries. In the Senate, according to Propublica data, the top six recipients of studio donations in 2010 are all Democrats supporting PIPA — like California's **Barbara Boxer,** who claims $571,600 in campaign funds from copyright crusaders for that year alone.

COMSTOCK

▶ Lights, camera — access!

These six senators became $2,640,555 richer in 2010 thanks to the music and entertainment industry. For Democrats, those millions apparently speak louder than millions of American voices.

To be fair, a few Democrats have stopped supporting the controversial bills. But as the entertainment industry threatens **President Obama** with reduced support, we wouldn't expect many others to follow suit.

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.

Wait, what? Republicans stand up for legislative responsibility

"Rushing something with such potential for far-reaching consequences is something I cannot support."

SEN. ORRIN HATCH, (R-U)

SOPA and PIPA are "misguided bills that will cause more harm than good."

SEN. JIM DEMINT (R-S.C.)

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WEEKEND

- The Tuskegee Airmen of World War II are finally getting their story told on the big screen
- Why stars Cuba Gooding Jr. and Ne-Yo fought to be a part of it

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▶ Ne-Yo stars as Andrew "Smokey" Salem in "Red Tails."

On the horizon

Ne-Yo on his upcoming album

The R&B artist is currently finishing a new album titled "The Cracks in Mr. Perfect." "[It] speaks on the perfection that is imperfection," he explains. "It's the more human side of Ne-Yo — not Ne-Yo the celebrity, not even Ne-Yo the singer-songwriter. [It's about] Ne-Yo the man and the things we deal with as men, as human beings."

That inward retrospection is at least partially a reaction to living in the public eye. "As a celebrity, you're expected to be perfect," he says. "You're not allowed to just not want to deal with people. The one day you don't want to do that, you're an a—hole. In actuality, we're human beings. This album just expresses that: 'Celebrity? OK, whatever. Artist? Whatever — human being first.'"

In that context, he says, "It's relatable to everybody, because there is no such thing as perfection."

GIVING THE RED TAILS A CHANCE TO SOAR

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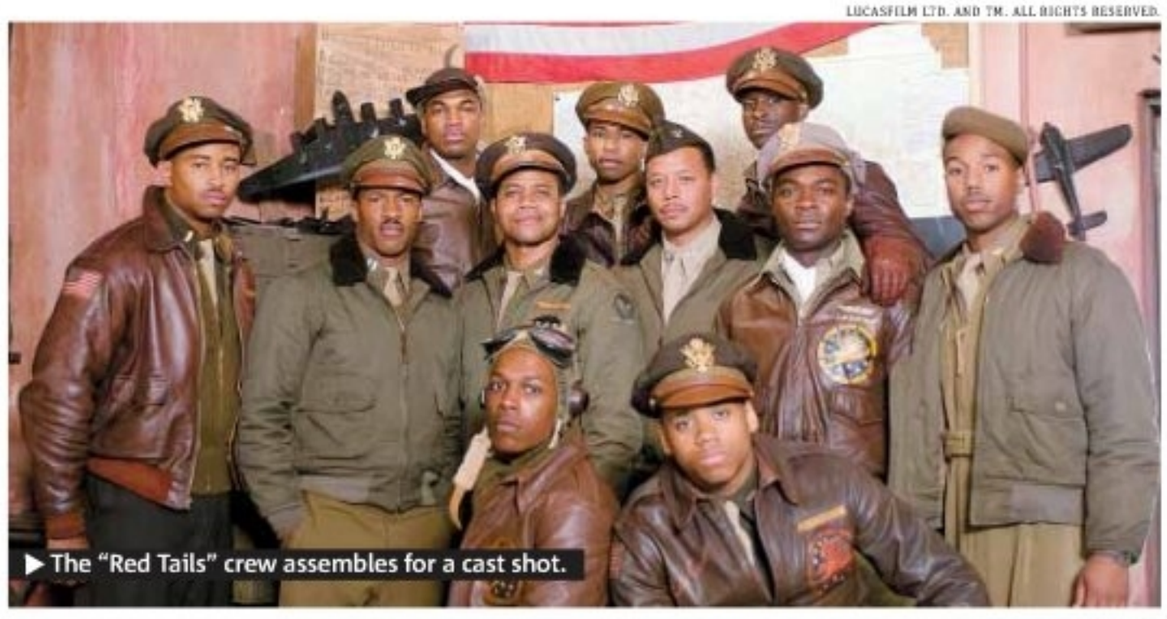

▶ The "Red Tails" crew assembles for a cast shot.

The story of the Tuskegee Airmen was one that almost didn't get told. The crew of African-American fighter pilots in World War II had been given the television movie treatment by HBO in 1995, but director George Lucas spent nearly 25 years trying to get a major feature made. By funding the film himself, Lucas was finally able to produce the movie he'd always dreamed of making. One of the original Tuskegee Airmen, 89-year-old Roscoe Brown, notes the importance of that project: "Red Tails."

"Young people don't know about segregation," Brown says. "When I give speeches and tell young people that I applied to be a pilot at Eastern Airlines and that the staffing manager told me to my face, 'we don't hire negroes here,' it causes them to just gasp because that would never happen today. And the reason it wouldn't happen today is because folks like us and Harry Truman and Franklin Roosevelt changed the world, so I like to see it as a world-changing experience."

One of the stars of the film, R&B singer Ne-Yo, notes that the airmen, who broke color barriers by engaging in direct combat with the Germans, rather than only assisting on tertiary flight missions, took on the unwieldy tasks at an extraordinarily young age — between 17 and 25.

"If you didn't know and you were told about what the Tuskegee Airmen accomplished, you'd instantly think these were men who'd lived lives, had families, in their upper 30s, 40s," he says. "The amazingness of these individuals — it wasn't about how old they were. It was about, 'we've got a job to do and we're going to get it done.'"

Their story so affected Cuba Gooding Jr., who appeared in the HBO film on the subject, that the actor fought to be a part of this project as well.

"They're not telling these stories very much in Hollywood," Gooding Jr. says. "This was the first time I'd read a script where these men empowered themselves. I loved 'Glory,' but they didn't need Matthew Broderick's [character] in this movie. They did it on their own. These are black men, doing for themselves."

HEIDI PATALANO
heidi.patalano@metro.us

Back in time

The actors who portray the tight-knit Red Tails crew got a wallop of authenticity by living in a training camp for several weeks before production. Ne-Yo likens the experience to a time-warp:

"It was bootcamp for 1942, meaning there was no music that wasn't from 1942, there was no food that wasn't from 1942," he says. "No cell phones, nothing. It was snowing, and we were in tents."

Kate Beckinsale returns to the 'Underworld' franchise
At first, the films were a lark Then 'it all spiraled out of control'

COURTESY OF SONY PICTURES

KATE BECKINSALE'S RE-'AWAKENING'

"Underworld: Awakening" marks Kate Beckinsale's third outing — after skipping the franchise's last installment — as ruthless, gun-toting vampire Selene, so the British actress has had time to adjust to her character's temper. "I suppose it's my second or third time playing the character, so I'm used to the fact that she doesn't hold back when she's annoyed," she says.

Annoyed is one way to put it. In the new film, Selene bites, shoots and stabs her way through countless human and werewolf foes after waking up from a forced 12-year hibernation. And after three films, Beckinsale is still amazed she's developed a reputation as an action star. "It's so crazy, it's absolutely mad. And you'd think I'd be more used to it now," she says. "The first 'Underworld,' I'd come off of doing lots of Merchant Ivory films and Shakespeare, and even the American movies I'd done were largely period pieces, so I'd often get the feedback from casting people that, 'She's very soft and delicate and English, and we can't imagine her with an edge.' And I thought, I'll have to see if I can do that then. And then it all kind of spiraled out of control."

So what would the Oxford-educated actress like to be doing besides dispatching bad guys? Make people laugh. "I'm quite smiley and jolly in real life," she says. "I'd love to do more comedy. I don't find very many comedies where I find the women's parts are very funny. 'Bridesmaids' was so exciting because that doesn't happen very often."

Quoted

"I'm quite smiley and jolly in real life. I'd love to do more comedy. I don't find very many comedies where I find the women's parts are very funny."
BECKINSALE

Hollywood today

Kate Beckinsale is by no means a fan of the TMZ age, with constant paparazzi attention and shots of stars shopping for groceries splattered across the Internet, but that doesn't mean she doesn't understand it.

"I think we've lost that slightly magical air of what movie stars used to be," she says. "There's something that is very spoiled now. It is very tempting to expose everyone's feet of clay because we are so bombarded with visuals of the perfect female and male form that I think it's very oppressive to people. ... Whatever it is, it does inspire a great kind of low self-esteem in almost anybody."

At 38, Beckinsale is by no means old, but Hollywood can be a cruel place for actresses. She acknowledges the industry's double standard for women and men when it comes to maturity, but she's ignoring it. "You're talking to someone who's just spent the entire year running about on a wire," she says. "For me, I haven't been handed my carpet slippers or experienced any career hot-flashes yet. I'm sure I will, but this hasn't been it. So I'm able to live in my little bubble where I'm not about to be 70 years old."

In fact, when comparing how she handled the stunt work on the first "Underworld" film to "Underworld: Awakening," Beckinsale says she's actually getting better with age. "I just feel better because I was such a novice then," she says. "Whether I've lost energy, eggs, hope, bone density, whatever — fullness in my breasts — I'm not aware of that as much as I am the fact that I'm more confident in the stuff."

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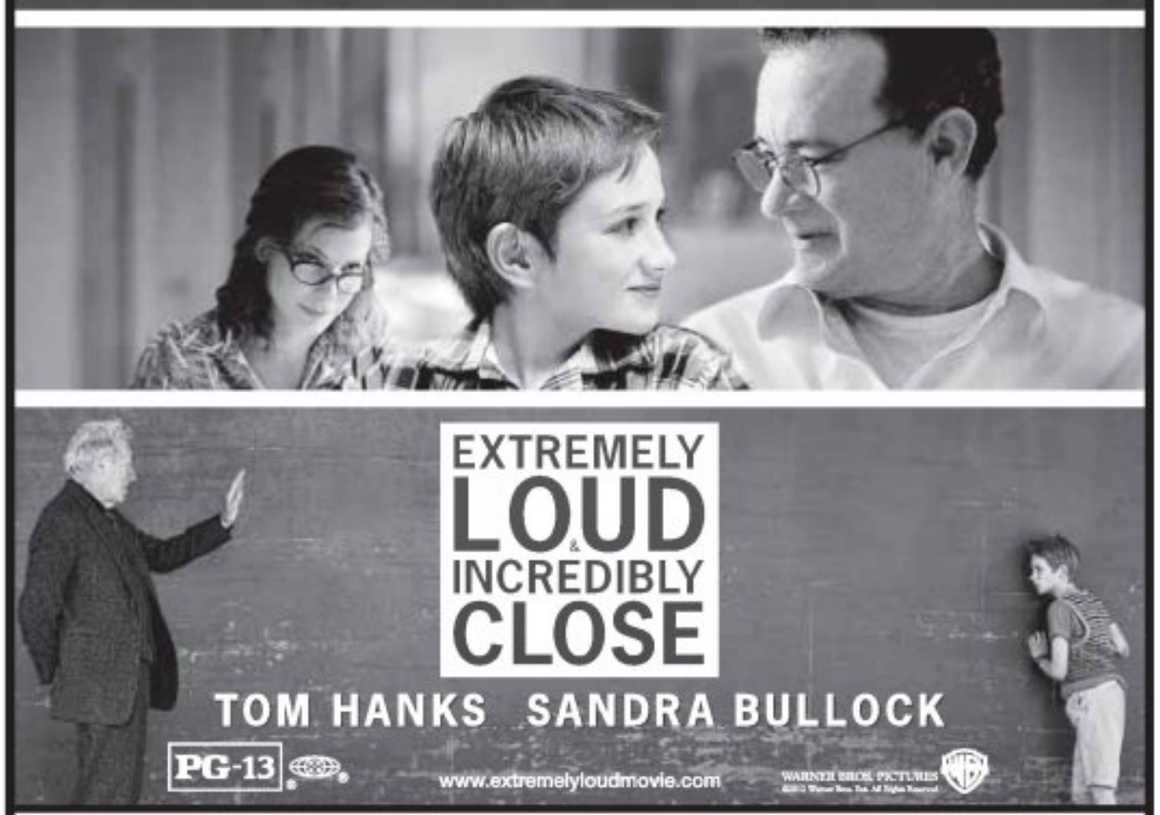

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Also opening

'Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close'

Director: Stephen Daldry
Cast: Tom Hanks, Sandra Bullock, Thomas Horn, Viola Davis
Rating: PG-13
Grade: B

Can a movie be considered a good one just because it made you cry? That's something many reviewers have struggled with when it comes to this film. Look at the components on the table: An adorable, precociously smart child is in mourning for his father, who died in the World Trade Center attacks of 9/11. The father is played by Tom Hanks. Sandra Bullock plays the boy's long-suffering mother. Veteran actor Max von Sydow plays a mysterious stranger who, despite his unwillingness to speak, ever, decides to help the boy on his quest to unlock a riddle his father left behind for him. Come on, is that not a recipe for cute overload — or at least weepy overload? It's just too precious to take in all at once.

FRANCOIS DUHAMEL

▶ Thomas Horn stars as the inquisitive Oskar Schell in "Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close."

While the story (based on the book by Jonathan Safran Froer) is smartly constructed, many have accused the movie of pulling a bit too hard on the heartstrings. Any movie that makes 9/11 a centerpiece of the plot runs the risk of being labeled as exploitative. But for some, it's that catharsis that makes a film like this seem brave. METRO/HP

Go 'Haywire' with Soderbergh's latest

▶ Ewan McGregor is helpless against Gina Carano's fist.

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'Haywire'

Director: Steven Soderbergh
Cast: Gina Carano, Ewan McGregor, Channing Tatum, Michael Fassbender
Rating: R **Grade:** B

The story of a double-crossed contract killer has been done over and over again, sure. It takes the steady hand of a veteran director like Steven Soderbergh to make a new one not stink. We already know from his three "Oceans" movies that the director knows how to keep a caper film bouncy, fun and smart. Unlike his darker work in films like "Contagion" and "Traffic," Soderbergh seems to be able to turn a switch on his directing style when it comes to these "lighter" movies. The set up may be the same, but the outcome is never what you'd expect.

But half the reason this film isn't just more of the same old wronged-assassin-on-a-mission movie is that mixed-martial arts master Gina Carano is its star. That a lady killer is still such a novelty may be a bit of an eye-roller, but Carano's legitimate skills as a fighter bring a visceral punch to every bone-crunching action sequence. She's not all there as an actor yet — sometimes issuing lines with such wooden machismo, she makes Jason Statham look like Laurence Olivier. But Soderbergh has surrounded her with a cast more than able to fill the voids of her own acting experience.

HEIDI PATALANO
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THE ADVENTURES OF TINTIN 3D (PG) 12:30. RealD 3D
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: CHIPWRECKED (G) 10:50. Digital Presentation
THE ARTIST (PG-13) 10:15, 12:50, 3:15, 5:45, 8:15, 10:55.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
BEAUTY AND THE BEAST 3D (G) Fri and Sat 11:35, 2:05, 4:30, 7:05, 9:20, 11:30. RealD 3D; Sun 11:35-2:05-4:30-7:05-9:20. RealD 3D
CARNAGE (R) 11:15, 4:10.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
CONTRABAND (R) 11:05, 1:40, 4:15, 7:15, 9:00, 10:00. Digital Presentation
THE DESCENDANTS (R) 10:45, 2:20, 5:15, 8:05, 10:50.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
THE DEVIL INSIDE (R) Fri and Sat 1:30, 6:45, 11:35. Digital Presentation; Sun 1:30-6:45. Digital Presentation
EXTREMELY LOUD & INCREDIBLY CLOSE (PG-13) 11:00, 1:55, 4:45, 7:50, 10:45. Digital Presentation
THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO (R) 11:25, 3:00, 6:25, 9:50. Digital Presentation
HAYWIRE (R) Fri and Sat 11:20, 1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:30, 11:50.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation; Sun 11:20-1:45-4:20-7:00-9:30.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
HUGO 3D (PG) 3:45, 6:50, 9:55. RealD 3D
THE IRON LADY (PG-13) Fri and Sat 10:55, 1:25, 4:05, 6:40, 9:15, 12:05.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation; Sun 10:55-1:25-4:05-6:40-9:15.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
JOYFUL NOISE (PG-13) Fri and Sat 10:00, 12:40, 3:20, 6:00, 8:45, 11:40. Digital Presentation; Sun 10:00-12:40-3:20-6:00-8:45. Digital Presentation
MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - GHOST PROTOCOL (PG-13) 10:05, 1:05, 4:00, 7:30, 10:40. Digital Presentation
PINA 3D (PG) 11:40, 2:45, 5:25, 8:00, 10:30.C INDEPENDENT;RealD 3D
RED TAILS (PG-13) 11:00, 1:55, 4:50, 7:45, 10:45. Digital Presentation
SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS (PG-13) 10:40, 1:35, 4:25, 7:35, 10:30. Digital Presentation
TINKER TAILOR SOLDIER SPY (R) 1:20, 4:15, 7:25, 10:20.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
UNDERWORLD: AWAKENING 3D (R) 10:30, 12:45, 3:05, 5:30, 8:10, 10:35. RealD 3D
UNDERWORLD: AWAKENING: AN IMAX 3D EXPERIENCE (R) Fri and Sat 11:30, 2:00, 4:35, 7:10, 9:35, 11:55. IMAX 3D; Sun 11:30-2:00-4:35-7:10-9:35. IMAX 3D
VIRAL FACTOR (NR) 12:00, 2:50, 5:40, 8:25, 11:10. Digital Presentation

REGAL CINEMAS

Fenway 13 & RPX
617-424-6266
201 Brookline Ave.
THE ADVENTURES OF TINTIN 3D (PG) 1:35, 4:10. RealD 3D
THE ARTIST (PG-13) Fri 1:40, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00; Sat 7:20-10:00.; Sun 1:40-4:40-7:20-10:00.
BEAUTY AND THE BEAST 3D (G) Fri and Sat 1:20, 3:45, 7:05, 9:35, 12:00. RealD 3D; Sun 1:20-3:45-7:05-9:35. RealD 3D
CONTRABAND (R) Fri 1:15, 6:55. OC-Open Caption; Fri 3:55-4:15-9:40-10:10-12:20.; Sat 3:55-9:40. OC-Open Caption; Sat 1:15-4:15-6:55-10:10-12:20.; Sun 3:55-4:15-6:55-10:10.; Sun 1:15-9:40. OC-Open Caption
EXTREMELY LOUD & INCREDIBLY CLOSE (PG-13) Fri and Sat 1:10, 4:20, 7:25, 10:40; Sun 1:10-4:20-7:25-10:15.
THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO (R) Fri and Sat 1:00, 4:25, 8:00, 11:45; Sun 1:00-4:25-8:00.
HAYWIRE (R) Fri and Sat 1:35, 3:50, 7:10, 9:50, 12:15; Sun 1:35-3:50-7:10-9:50.
THE IRON LADY (PG-13) 1:30, 4:00, 6:45, 9:45
THE METROPOLITAN OPERA: THE ENCHANTED ISLAND LIVE (NR) Sat 12:55
MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - GHOST PROTOCOL (PG-13) Fri and Sat 1:05, 4:05, 7:15, 10:25, 12:25; Sun 1:05-4:05-7:15-10:15.
RED TAILS (PG-13) Fri and Sat 1:25, 4:35, 7:35, 10:50; Sun 1:25-4:35-7:35-10:20.
SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS (PG-13) Fri and Sat 1:25, 4:30, 7:30, 10:45; Sun 1:25-4:30-7:30-10:20.
TINKER TAILOR SOLDIER SPY (R) 1:15, 6:50
UNDERWORLD: AWAKENING 3D (R) Fri and Sat 7:00, 9:30, 11:50. RealD 3D; Fri and Sat 1:00-3:40-7:45-10:15-12:30. RPX;RealD 3D; Sun 1:00-3:40-7:45-10:05. RPX;RealD 3D; Sun 7:00-9:30. RealD 3D

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617-734-2500
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A DANGEROUS METHOD (R) Fri 11:45, 2:20, 7:10, 9:40; Sat and Sun 2:20-4:40-7:10-9:40.
DON GIOVANNI (NR) Sat 10:00
THE IRON LADY (PG-13) Fri 11:00, 2:10, 4:40, 7:20, 9:50; Sat and Sun 11:45-2:10-4:40-7:20-9:50.
MEAN GIRLS (PG-13) Fri and Sat 12:00
OUTRAGE (AUTOREIJI) (R) Fri and Sat 12:00
RESURRECTION (NR) Sat 12:00
SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL SHORTS (NR) 12:00, 2:10, 4:30, 7:00, 9:15
TINKER TAILOR SOLDIER SPY (R) Fri 1:20, 4:00, 7:00, 9:35; Sat 1:45-4:20-7:00-9:35.; Sun 1:20-4:00-7:00-9:35.

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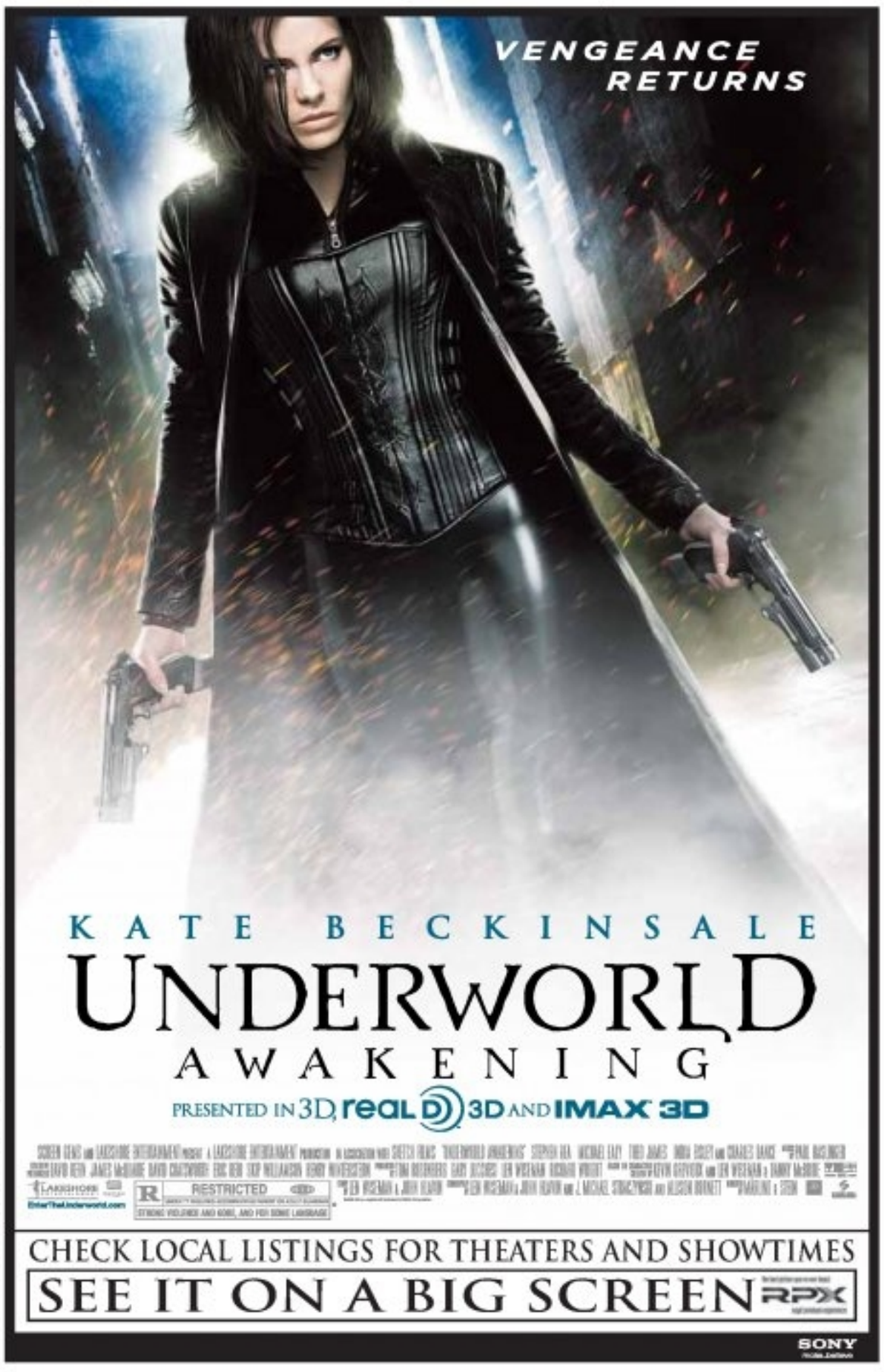
Route 93 off of Exit 6
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: CHIPWRECKED (G) Fri and Sat 10:15, 12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:15. Digital Presentation; Sun 10:15-12:45-3:15-5:45. Digital Presentation
BEAUTY AND THE BEAST 3D (G) Fri and Sat 10:00, 12:30, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:10. RealD 3D; Sun 10:00-12:30-3:00-5:20-7:40. RealD 3D
CONTRABAND (R) Fri and Sat 10:45, 1:45, 4:45, 7:45, 10:35. Digital Presentation; Sun 10:45-1:45-4:45-7:45. Digital Presentation
THE DEVIL INSIDE (R) Fri and Sat 10:40. Digital Presentation; Sun 8:00. Digital Presentation
EXTREMELY LOUD & INCREDIBLY CLOSE (PG-13) Fri and Sat 10:10, 1:05, 4:10, 7:15, 10:25. Digital Presentation; Sun 10:10-1:05-4:10-7:15. Digital Presentation
HAYWIRE (R) Fri and Sat 9:55, 12:25, 2:55, 5:25, 8:00, 10:45.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation; Sun 9:55-12:25-2:55-5:25-8:00.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
JOYFUL NOISE (PG-13) Fri and Sat 10:05, 1:10, 4:05, 7:10, 10:05. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digita; Sun 10:05-1:10-4:05-7:10. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digita
THE METROPOLITAN OPERA: THE ENCHANTED ISLAND LIVE (NR) Sat 12:55
MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - GHOST PROTOCOL (PG-13) Fri and Sat 10:00, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00. Digital Presentation; Sun 10:00-1:00-4:00-7:00. Digital Presentation
RED TAILS (PG-13) Fri and Sat 10:20, 1:20, 4:20, 7:30, 10:30. Digital Presentation; Sun 10:20-1:20-4:20-7:30. Digital Presentation
SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS (PG-13) Fri 10:15, 1:15, 4:15, 7:20, 10:35. Digital Presentation; Sat 7:20-10:35. Digital Presentation; Sun 10:15-1:15-4:15-7:20. Digital Presentation
UNDERWORLD: AWAKENING 3D (R) Fri and Sat 10:00, 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15. RealD 3D; Sun 10:00-12:15-2:45-5:15-7:45. RealD 3D

AMC ENTERTAINMENT

Burlington Cinema 10
888-AMC-4FUN
Across from Burlington Mall
BEAUTY AND THE BEAST 3D (G) Fri 12:00, 2:20, 5:00, 7:30, 9:50. RealD 3D; Sat 9:45-12:00-2:20-5:00-7:30-9:50. RealD 3D; Sun 9:45-12:00-2:20-5:00-7:30. RealD 3D
CONTRABAND (R) Fri 2:00, 5:50, 8:30, 11:00. Digital Presentation; Sat 11:20-2:00-5:50-8:30-11:00. Digital Presentation; Sun 11:20-2:00-5:50-8:30. Digital Presentation
EXTREMELY LOUD & INCREDIBLY CLOSE (PG-13) Fri 1:40, 4:40, 7:50, 10:50. Digital Presentation; Sat 10:40-1:40-4:40-7:50-10:50. Digital Presentation; Sun 10:40-1:40-4:40-7:50. Digital Presentation
THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO (R) Fri and Sat 12:05, 3:30, 7:00, 10:30. Digital Presentation; Fri and Sat 12:05-3:30-7:00-10:30. CC-Closed Captions;Digital Presentation; Sun 10:50-12:05-3:30-7:00. Digital Presentation; Sun 12:05-3:30-7:00. CC-Closed Captions;Digital Presentation
THE IRON LADY (PG-13) Fri 12:05, 2:50, 5:30, 8:10, 10:40.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation; Sat 9:30-12:05-2:50-5:30-8:10-10:40.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation; Sun 9:30-12:05-2:50-5:30-8:10.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
JOYFUL NOISE (PG-13) Fri 2:30, 5:20, 8:20, 11:00. Digital Presentation; Sat 5:20-8:20-11:00. Digital Presentation; Sun 2:30-5:20-8:20. Digital Presentation
THE METROPOLITAN OPERA: THE ENCHANTED ISLAND LIVE (NR) Sat 12:55
MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - GHOST PROTOCOL (PG-13) Fri 1:20, 4:20, 7:40, 10:40. Digital Presentation; Sat 10:20-1:20-4:20-7:40-10:40. Digital Presentation; Sun 10:20-1:20-4:20-7:40. Digital Presentation
RED TAILS (PG-13) Fri 1:00, 4:05, 7:20, 10:30. Digital Presentation; Sat 10:00-1:00-4:05-7:20-10:30. Digital Presentation; Sun 10:00-1:00-4:05-7:20. Digital Presentation
SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS (PG-13) Fri 4:00, 7:10, 10:10. Digital Presentation; Sat 9:30-4:00-7:10-10:10. Digital Presentation; Sun 9:30-4:00-7:10. Digital Presentation
UNDERWORLD: AWAKENING 3D (R) Fri 12:50, 3:20, 6:10, 8:40, 11:00. RealD 3D; Sat 10:30-12:50-3:20-6:10-8:40-11:00. RealD 3D; Sun 10:30-12:50-3:20-6:10-8:40. RealD 3D
WAR HORSE (PG-13) 12:30. Digital Presentation

AMC ENTERTAINMENT

Lowes Harvard Square 5
888-AMC-4FUN
10 Church St., Cambridge
CONTRABAND (R) 1:15, 6:30, 8:55, 11:20. Digital Presentation
THE FLOWERS OF WAR (JIN LING



617-499-1996
1 Kendall Square, Cambridge
THE ARTIST (PG-13) Fri 1:50, 4:20, 6:50, 9:25; Sat and Sun 11:25-1:50-4:20-6:50-9:25.
CARNAGE (R) Fri 2:00, 4:30, 7:05, 9:10; Sat and Sun 11:30-2:00-4:30-7:05-9:10.
A DANGEROUS METHOD (R) Fri 1:35, 4:15, 6:45, 9:20; Sat and Sun 11:10-1:35-4:15-6:45-9:20.
THE DESCENDANTS (R) Fri 1:10, 3:50, 6:35, 9:15; Sat and Sun 1:10-3:50-6:35-9:15.
THE IRON LADY (PG-13) Fri 1:30, 4:00, 6:35, 9:10; Sat 10:30-12:50-3:20-6:10-8:40-11:00. RealD 3D; Sat 10:30-12:50-3:20-6:10-8:40-11:00. RealD 3D; Sun 10:30-12:50-3:20-6:10-8:40. RealD 3D
WAR HORSE (PG-13) 12:30. Digital Presentation

AMC ENTERTAINMENT

Loews Liberty Tree Mall 20
888-AMC-4FUN
Exit 24 (Endicott St.) off Rt. 128
THE ADVENTURES OF TINTIN 3D (PG) 10:40, 2:45, 6:40. RealD 3D
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: CHIPWRECKED (G) 10:30, 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30. Digital Presentation
THE ARTIST (PG-13) Fri and Sat 10:55, 1:25, 4:05, 6:45, 9:10, 11:35.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation; Sun 10:55-1:25-4:05-6:45-9:10.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
BEAUTY AND THE BEAST (G) Fri 11:10, 1:20, 3:30. Digital Presentation; Sat 11:00. Digital Presentation; Sun 3:30. Digital Presentation
BEAUTY AND THE BEAST 3D (G) Fri and Sat 10:30, 12:40, 2:50, 4:15, 5:05, 7:15, 9:30, 11:45. RealD 3D; Sun 10:30-12:40-2:50-4:15-5:05-7:15-9:30. RealD 3D
CARNAGE (R) 4:35, 9:15.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
CONTRABAND (R) Fri and Sat 11:00, 12:00, 1:40, 2:40, 5:20, 7:05, 8:05, 9:40, 10:45, 12:15. Digital Presentation; Sun 11:00-12:00-1:40-2:40-5:20-7:05-8:05-9:40-10:45. Digital Presentation
THE DESCENDANTS (R) 10:30, 1:10, 4:00, 6:55, 9:35.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
THE DEVIL INSIDE (R) Fri 5:40, 7:50, 10:00, 12:05. Digital Presentation; Sat 4:50-10:00-12:05. Digital Presentation; Sun 5:40-7:50-10:00. Digital Presentation
EXTREMELY LOUD & INCREDIBLY CLOSE (PG-13) Fri and Sat 10:40, 12:20, 1:35, 3:25, 4:30, 6:25, 7:25, 9:20, 10:25, 12:15. Digital Presentation; Sun 10:40-12:20-1:35-3:25-4:30-6:25-7:25-9:20-10:25. Digital Presentation
THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO (R) 11:30, 3:05, 6:50, 10:15. Digital Presentation
HAYWIRE (R) Fri and Sat 11:25, 2:10, 4:55, 7:30, 9:50, 12:10.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation; Sun 11:25-2:10-4:55-7:30-9:50.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
HUGO 3D (PG) 1:15, 6:30. RealD 3D
THE IRON LADY (PG-13) Fri and Sat 11:15, 1:50, 4:25, 7:00, 9:30, 12:00.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation; Sun 11:15-1:50-4:25-7:00-9:30.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
THE MUPPETS (PG) 11:20, 2:00. Digital Presentation
NEW YEAR'S EVE (PG-13) 4:20, 9:45. Digital Presentation
REAL STEEL (PG-13) Sat 1:00, 7:00. Digital Presentation; Sun 12:00. Digital Presentation
RED TAILS (PG-13) Fri and Sat 11:05, 1:55, 4:45, 7:40, 10:30. Digital Presentation; Sun 11:05-1:55-4:45-7:40-10:30. Digital Presentation
SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS (PG-13) 10:45, 1:45, 4:40, 7:35, 10:35. Digital Presentation
TINKER TAILOR SOLDIER SPY (R) 10:35, 1:30, 4:25, 7:20, 10:20.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
UNDERWORLD: AWAKENING (R) 8:10. Digital Presentation
UNDERWORLD: AWAKENING 3D (R) Fri and Sat 12:15, 5:30, 9:55, 10:40, 12:15. RealD 3D; Sun 12:15-5:30-9:55-10:40. RealD 3D
UNDERWORLD: AWAKENING: AN IMAX 3D EXPERIENCE (R) Fri and Sat 10:50, 1:30, 4:10, 7:10, 9:25, 11:40. IMAX 3D; Sun 10:50-1:30-4:10-7:10-9:25. IMAX 3D

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THE ADVENTURES OF TINTIN 3D (PG) 11:00, 1:40. RealD 3D
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: CHIPWRECKED (G) 10:30, 12:45, 3:15, 6:00. Digital Presentation
THE ARTIST (PG-13) 11:15, 1:50, 4:20, 7:00, 9:45.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
BEAUTY AND THE BEAST 3D (G) 11:45, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30. RealD 3D
CONTRABAND (R) Fri 10:45, 11:30, 1:30, 2:15, 4:15, 5:00, 7:15, 8:00, 10:00, 10:45. Digital Presentation; Sat 10:30-11:30-2:15-4:15-5:00-7:15-8:00-10:00-10:45. Digital Presentation; Sun 11:30-2:15-4:15-5:00-7:15-8:00-10:00. Digital Presentation
THE DESCENDANTS (R) Fri and Sat 11:25, 2:10, 4:50, 7:40, 10:40.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation; Sun 11:25-2:10-4:50-7:40-10:20.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
THE DEVIL INSIDE (R) Fri and Sat 11:00, 5:00, 8:15, 10:15, 11:00. Digital Presentation; Sun 11:00-5:00-8:15-10:15. Digital Presentation
EXTREMELY LOUD & INCREDIBLY CLOSE (PG-13) 10:30, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30. Digital Presentation
THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO (R) Fri and Sat 11:30, 3:30, 7:30, 11:00. Digital Presentation; Sun 11:30-3:30-7:30. Digital Presentation
HAYWIRE (R) 11:00, 1:40, 4:15, 7:05, 9:45.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
HUGO 3D (PG) 4:15, 7:15, 10:15. RealD 3D
THE IRON LADY (PG-13) 11:30, 2:05, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
JOYFUL NOISE (PG-13) Fri and Sat 10:45, 1:45, 4:45, 7:45, 10:45. Digital Presentation; Sun 10:45-1:45-4:45-7:45-10:30. Digital Presentation
MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - GHOST PROTOCOL (PG-13) 10:30, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30. Digital Presentation
NEW YEAR'S EVE (PG-13) 9:45. Digital Presentation
REAL STEEL (PG-13) Sat 1:00, 7:00. Digital Presentation; Sun 12:00. Digital Presentation
RED TAILS (PG-13) Fri and Sat 10:30, 1:30, 4:35, 7:45, 10:55. Digital Presentation; Sun 10:30-1:30-4:35-7:35-10:30. Digital Presentation
SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS (PG-13) Fri and Sat 11:00, 2:00, 5:00, 8:00, 11:00. Digital Presentation; Sun 11:00-2:00-5:00-8:00. Digital Presentation
TINKER TAILOR SOLDIER SPY (R) 1:15, 7:15.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation
UNDERWORLD: AWAKENING (R) 2:45. Digital Presentation
UNDERWORLD: AWAKENING 3D (R) Fri and Sat 12:15, 5:20, 8:00, 10:45. RealD 3D; Sun 12:15-5:20-8:00-10:30. RealD 3D
UNDERWORLD: AWAKENING: AN IMAX 3D EXPERIENCE (R) 11:30, 2:00, 4:40, 7:15, 10:00. IMAX 3D
WAR HORSE (PG-13) 11:15, 2:45, 6:15. Digital Presentation
WE BOUGHT A ZOO (PG) Fri and Sat 10:45, 1:45, 4:45, 7:45, 10:45. Digital Presentation; Sun 10:45-1:45-4:45-7:45-10:30. Digital Presentation

SOMERVILLE THEATRE

Somerville Theatre
617-625-5700
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CONTRABAND (R) Fri 5:00, 7:30, 9:50; Sat 2:00-5:00-7:30-9:50.; Sun 2:00-5:00-7:30.
THE DEVIL INSIDE (R) Fri 5:15, 7:40, 9:40
EXTREMELY LOUD & INCREDIBLY CLOSE (PG-13) Fri 4:20, 7:20, 10:00; Sat 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:00.; Sun 1:20-4:20-7:20.
THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO (R) Fri 4:00, 7:10; Sat and Sun 12:45-4:00-7:10.
THE MUPPETS (PG) Fri 4:30; Sat and Sun 1:10-4:30.
SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS (PG-13) Fri and Sat 7:15, 10:00; Sun 7:15.

CAPITOL THEATRE

Capitol Theatre
781-648-4340
204 Massachusetts Avenue
THE ADVENTURES OF TINTIN 3D (PG) Fri 4:30, 7:20, 9:45; Sat 1:45-4:30-7:20-9:45.; Sun 1:45-4:30-7:20.
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: CHIPWRECKED (G) Fri 5:00; Sat and Sun 5:00.
BEAUTY AND THE BEAST 3D (G) Fri 5:15, 7:30, 9:30; Sat 12:45-3:00-5:15-7:30-9:30.; Sun 12:45-3:00-5:15-7:30.
HAYWIRE (R) Fri 5:45, 7:45, 9:50; Sat 1:20-3:30-5:45-7:45-9:50.; Sun 1:20-3:30-5:45-7:45.
MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - GHOST PROTOCOL (PG-13) Fri 4:00, 7:10, 10:00; Sat 1:00-4:00-7:10-10:00.; Sun 1:00-4:00-7:10.
MY WEEK WITH MARILYN (R) Fri and Sat 7:15, 9:30; Sun 7:15.
WAR HORSE (PG-13) Fri 8:00; Sat and Sun 1:30-8:00.

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The feed ...

▶ On Fridays, Dorothy will post the best tweets she received during the week. You can always let her know what you think — good or bad — at @dorothyatmetro.

This week, we discussed Golden Globes fashion, the fact I get a lot of hate mail and that @ctwinfield is (hilariously) a week behind.

@sarrible: Actually liked Claire Danes's dress, but by far best moment was when Peter Dinklage got an eyeful of Piper Perabo's mystery.

@TheWittyBiddy: NOT Madonna or her four boobs!

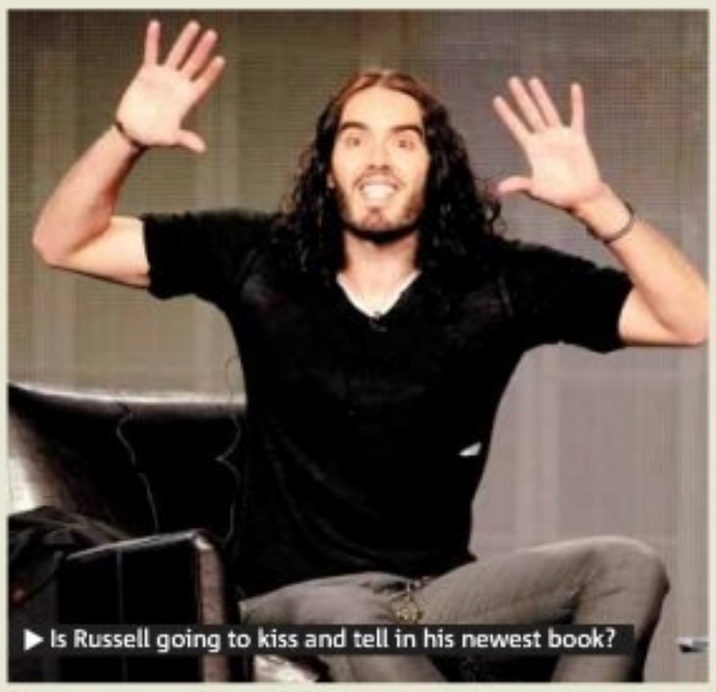
@LadyCLada: A stone-cold GORGEOUS one RT @dorothyatmetro: I'm just going to say it: Angelina Jolie always looks like a stone-cold b-tch.

@Konnichiwaaaaa u do get some serious hate mail. Perhaps u shld stop writing about entertainment & start a column replying 2 hate mail.

@ctwinfield Blue Ivy for a baby's name?! Sounds more like it would be a...oh, that was last week, wasn't it? Nevermind.

THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us


▶ Is Russell going to kiss and tell in his newest book?

Brand's newest tell-all book

Is **Russell Brand** writing a tell-all memoir about his 14-month marriage to **Katy Perry**? According to Us Weekly, he is. The tabloid says that not only did Brand blindside his pop-star wife with the filing of the divorce, but he is also planning to "cover all the nitty-gritty, sometimes ugly details" of their marriage.

Perry, for one, isn't happy. "Katy is insulted and feels betrayed that Russell has treated her so poorly," a pal to the singer tells Us. "She will never forgive him. Ever."

Sure, it's low-class, but is anyone else just the slightest bit interested in knowing if he ever got to play with that whipped-cream bra?

Casper Smart takes to Twitter

Just why did megastar **Jennifer Lopez** fall for **Casper Smart**? If you're thinking it's because he's a hot piece of young man meat with terrific abs who is completely subservient to her every want and desire, you'd be wrong! It's his seriously deep tweets, yo. How moving are they? Let's just say: Can someone get the president from the Precious Moments Page-a-Day Calendar company on the phone? Smart needs to stop dancing and start writing to inspire all of us. Some of my favorites:

▶ "Age, status, n opinions of others are irrelevant."

▶ @TheNoteboook: Be real, be yourself, be unique, be true, be honest, be humble, be happy." .....JUST BE!!!!!

▶ "We should all honor our time here by indulging our passion and dreams. So, close your ears and open your hearts; Love and be happy!"

▶ Smart, left, also retweets @TheNotebook. Deep!

Tweeted

"Our hearts are endless and our souls infinite. Ages are mere reminders of the hours logged on this earth and the precious time remaining." CASPER SMART

Wow! Can't you just visualize that text on a poster with a picture of the "Hang in There" cat? How does he know that my "passion and dreams" consist of mocking, in a free daily newspaper, the throwaway tweets of a 24-year-old backup dancer I've never met?

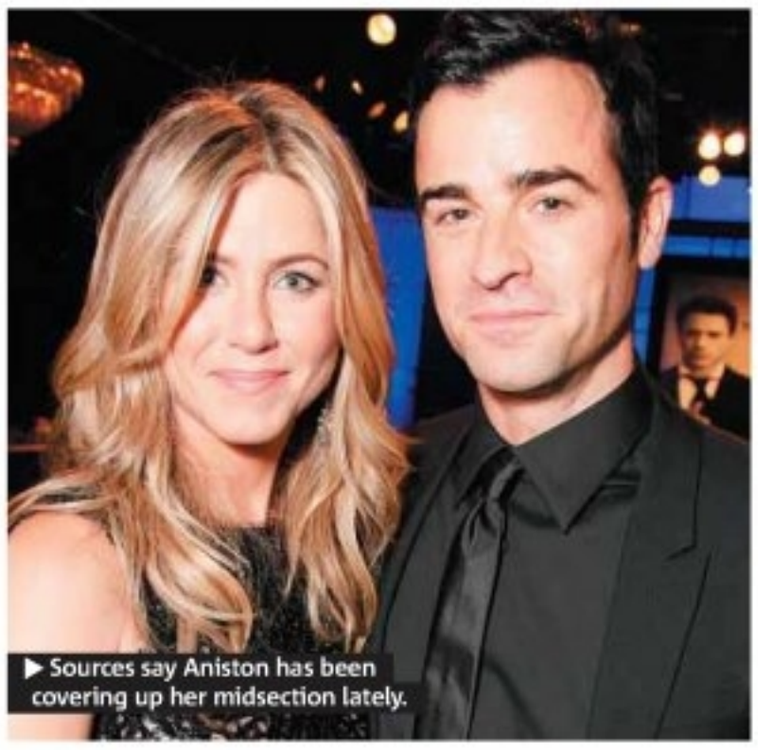
Talking points

Aniston is having a baby!

Jennifer Aniston is reportedly six months pregnant with boyfriend **Justin Theroux**'s child, according to MTV UK — though the pregnancy is news even to friends. "She wouldn't have wanted to make a big deal but she must be so excited," a pal says. "If anyone ever asked if she was worried about running out of time, she'd reply, 'I'm absolutely having kids. There's not one doubt in my mind.'" Aniston has been spotted out at a pair of events recently either bundled up around the middle or showing off a suspiciously swelled belly. Speculation that the couple might be expecting began in October when they were spotted leaving a clinic together.

Spears: The wedding rumors start

Details about **Britney Spears**' upcoming wedding to **Jason Trawick** are beginning to trickle out, according to Radar Online. "It's going to be a very intimate wedding with only immediate family and very, very close friends," a source says. "It will probably be a destination wedding in a very warm, tropical location." As for the singer's two sons from her marriage to Kevin Federline? "Britney's sons are absolutely going to be a part of the ceremony as ring-bearers," the source adds. "And Jason has something very special planned for the boys that will take place during the wedding."


▶ Sources say Aniston has been covering up her midsection lately.

Madonna knows what makes it work

Madonna knows what it takes to make a relationship work — or not work, as the case may be. "I think with all relationships you are going to have to give up something," Madonna, who is currently dating 24-year-old dancer **Brahim Zaibat**, tells Grazia magazine. "It is a juggling act, it's about compromising." And when speaking with the U.K.'s Telegraph, the singer and director took a more pragmatic tone: "There is no such thing as perfect love," she says. "All love requires compromise or sacrifice."

Middleton is tired of the attention

Pippa Middleton is reportedly sick and tired of the paparazzi attention that's become a regular part of her life since her sister, **Kate**, married **Prince William**, so her lawyers are taking action, according to Hollyscoop. Citing the "serious distress and anxiety" the photographers' presence causes, Middleton's lawyers have sent cease-and-desist letters to the "nine or 10 agencies outside her door every day," threatening legal action if they don't ease off. As for publications, so far the Daily Mail is the only one to vow to stop using paparazzi images of her.

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Dancing with the (real) stars

These celebs don't have to be on the ABC show to strut their stuff. Here are our favorite candid dance moments from last year.

1. Cameron Diaz and Jimmy Fallon showed off their moves while on "Late Night With Jimmy Fallon" at Rockefeller Center on June 21 in New York City.

2. It takes two to tango — and Antonio Banderas and Salma Hayek did just that while at the U.K. premiere of "Puss in Boots" in London in November.

3. Jennifer Lopez shook her money-maker at Fox's "American Idol" Season 10 finale results show held at Nokia Theatre LA Live on May 25 in Los Angeles.

4. Jersey Shore's Nicole Elizabeth "Snooki" Polizzi waved her arms like she just didn't care while hosting The Pool After Dark at Harrah's Resort in Atlantic City in September.

5. Kathy Griffin got into the holiday dancing spirit with shoppers at Westfield Culver City shopping mall on Dec. 18 in Culver City, Calif.

6. Indian model and Bollywood actress Jesse Randhawa and husband, Bollywood choreographer Sandip Soparrkar, celebrated Students' Dance Day 2011 in Mumbai on July 4.

7. Rainn Wilson and Liv Tyler boogied down at the after-party for the Los Angeles premiere of "Super" at the Egyptian Theatre in Hollywood in March.

8. Juliette Lewis danced on the red carpet at the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center's "An Evening With Women" at The Beverly Hilton hotel in Beverly Hills in April.

1: JASON KEMPIN/GETTY IMAGES
2: ION FRANCES/WIREIMAGE
3: FRAZER HARRISON/GETTY IMAGES
4: TOM BRECIAK/FILMMAGIC
5: DAVID LIVINGSTON/GETTY IMAGES
6: STRDEL/AFP/GETTY IMAGES
7: TODD WILLIAMSON/CONTRIBUTOR
8: RICK STARR/CONTRIBUTOR

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TV watch list

'Shark Tank'

REALITY. The shark bait here includes an author looking to kick-start a celebrity ghostwriting biz. **Season premiere, Friday, 8 p.m., ABC**

'An Idiot Abroad 2: The Bucket List'

REALITY. Karl Pilkington may be Ricky Gervais' "idiot" friend, but now he also gets sent around the world to check things off of his "things to do before you die" list. To be clear, that's Gervais' list. **Season premiere, Saturday, 10 p.m., Science**

'Drew Peterson: Untouchable'

MOVIE. It is "literally" terrifying to watch "Parks and Recreation" star Rob Lowe play a cop who is suspected of murdering his third and fourth wives. **Saturday, 8 p.m., Lifetime** AMBER RAY

Learn to cook in 2012

Take baby steps into the kitchen with help from Food Network chef Claire Robinson It's not the quantity of ingredients, but the quality How to stock your shelves Plus, a side dish anyone can make

▶ Claire Robinson hosts "5 Ingredient Fix" on Food Network.

CONTRIBUTED

If a laundry list of ingredients intimidates you out of the kitchen and into the pizza place next door, Claire Robinson, host of Food Network's "5 Ingredient Fix," says you're not alone.

"People get angry when they see 27 ingredients in a recipe and they're trying to learn to cook," the TV chef says. "I don't have 27 ingredients in my kitchen right now and I'm a chef!"

When it comes to preparing great food, Robinson swears that less really is more.

"If you choose fewer ingredients, then you're able to control the quality of ingredients that you're putting in your body," she says.

For anyone whose resolution is to cook more — or to just learn how to cook — Robinson thinks going by the book will only take you so far.

"Following recipes isn't teaching you how to cook," she says. "You're the executive chef of your kitchen. Read a recipe, make it and then add to it."

MEREDITH ENGEL
meredith.engel@metro.us

What's in her kitchen

(and should be in yours)

Pantry
Balsamic vinegar
Cooking oil
Finishing oils, like truffle ("You don't want to cook them — they'll change their flavor.")
Spices and spice blends
Fresh herbs ("Rosemary grows really easily. So does mint.")
Nuts
Chocolate ("You can melt it and dip food into it. I add chili [pepper] to it. You can infuse flavors into it.")

Fridge
Butter
Bacon ("I use it as a flavoring agent.")
Eggs
Cheese ("I always have a parmesan reggiano.")
Fat-free Greek yogurt ("I can make healthier versions of things with it.")

Weekend recipe

Roasted grape tomatoes

(Serves 8)
Ingredients:
4 cups grape tomatoes
3 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
Kosher salt to taste
Freshly ground black pepper to taste
3 garlic cloves, peeled

1 Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Drizzle 3 tablespoons olive oil over the grape tomatoes and garlic cloves, and sprinkle with salt, pepper.

2 Pour the tomatoes and 3 garlic cloves in a 9-by-13 glass-baking dish or a rimmed half sheet tray, ensuring they are in just one layer. Roast for 20 minutes, and then stir. Add 2 to 3 tablespoons of hot water if too dry in appearance. Return to the oven and cook for 20 to 30 more minutes. When ready, the tomatoes will have begun to shrivel and the liquid in the dish will have thickened. Serve hot from the oven as a side dish or add just 2 more ingredients and morph them into another recipe — visit Metro.us for ideas.

TIP: Taste one of your raw grape tomatoes and if it is not flavorful, add a pinch of sugar to help bring out that incredible sweetness you find in a perfect and in-season grape tomato.

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book by Watty Piper
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Thursday evenings, February 2, 9 & 16, 2012 at Temple Shalom in Newton, Free but pre-registration required, jschwartz@urj.org, 617-928-0012, www.reformjewishoutreachboston.org
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MUSIC

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To John,
If I could change the alphabet, I would put U and I together!
From Pookie

Show us your riffs

Comedian George Lopez talks music, patience and the ancient art of reflexology Why you will not have to 'sit through six dudes' before you see him perform

George Lopez is a big proponent of mixing music and comedy. He says he doesn't want his audience to be laughed out by the time he takes the stage.

"When you usually see a headliner, you sit through six dudes and by the third guy you're like, 'Come on!'" he says, "I hire a band so people feel like they've had a full evening."

Music isn't just part of the evening's program — it's part of how Lopez himself is programmed.

"It's a little bit like jazz," he says of the way he structures his stand-up routine. "You know the notes, and you just decide how to play the notes for that night. ... Some of the best jazz is when they're playing the song and they go off a little bit and then come back to the song."

So what is Lopez riffing on these days?

"There's a lot of entitlement as we live now," he says. "There's a lot of people who feel entitled. There's less patience than there used to be. It's funny, because now that I've lived long enough to become patient, no one is patient. Yesterday I was at a light, and the instant it turned green, the person behind me honked. I had taken my foot off the brake to put it on the gas and then, 'BAMMP!'"

Lopez says he has lately achieved a zen-like patience thanks to undergoing the Eastern therapy of reflexology.

"They rub your feet and they can tell you everything about what you've got going in your body," he says. "It really has had a calming effect in my life."

But don't think that will make Lopez any less volatile onstage.

"With everything that's happening as life goes, you kind of stay around the same kind of spine," he says, "but everything changes around it. The spine of what I've always been is still there."

George Lopez

PAT HEALY
pat.healy@metro.us

Conan the barbarian?

After Conan O'Brien publicly complained about being asked to take a time slot that was a half an hour later to accommodate Jay Leno, O'Brien moved to TBS and ended up doing the very thing he was complaining about to George Lopez by bumping "Lopez Tonight" back an hour.

"It's funny how that happens," says Lopez, whose show took a hit in ratings with the move, and was eventually canceled five months ago.

But Lopez says he is not bitter, and he was actually the one to persuade O'Brien to make the move happen the way it did.

"It was something that was very different," the comedian says wistfully of his show, "and I miss that day-to-day excitement."

If you go

George Lopez
Friday, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, 8:30 p.m.
The Wilbur Theatre
$65-$85, 617-248-9700
www.thewilbur.com

'Arranged down to the minutiae'

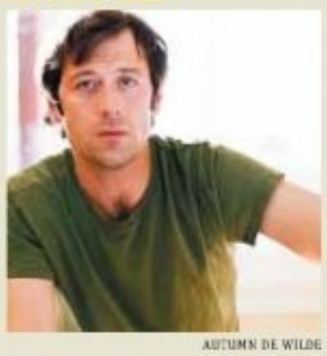
Modern music enters Henry Wolfe's life rarely. He's in his early 30s and he lived through Williamsburg's hipster heyday, even playing in an electro-ish combo called Bravo Silva before moving to Los Angeles several years ago. He says he has always loved music from the 1970s, Neil Young being notable among that, but it's the stylish melodies, breezy syncopation and lyrical swank of classics — from Burt Bacharach to Cole Porter — that influenced his solo debut, "Linda Vista."

"I discovered a whole tradition of songwriting that predates the British Invasion," says Wolfe. "One of the things I like most about my album is that there's room for individual players to stretch out and have their voices heard. A lot of music I've made and will probably make in the future is arranged down to the minutiae of what each instrument will play."

That element works because, like the proverbial sailor with a girl in every port, Wolfe has different East Coast and West Coast backing bands.

"The fact that I don't have one set of musicians that I'm always playing with [means having] a repertoire that is flexible is important. It's nice not to have to rely on anyone or have them feel like you're relying on them. I like that independence." LINDA LABAN

If you go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Wolfe in Streep's clothing

Wolfe is the son of actress Meryl Streep, and his family had cause for celebration the night before he chatted with Metro. His mom won the Golden Globe for Best Actress for her portrayal of Margaret Thatcher in "The Iron Lady."

"This is the time of the year when it's convention season for Hollywood," Wolfe says. "My mom has been in L.A. quite a lot. I'm really proud of her. I think she's outdone herself with this film."

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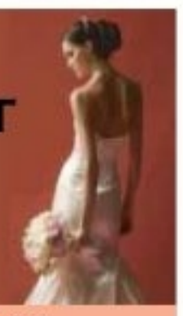
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Letters

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Mitt didn't win, but GOP doesn't care

No wonder the GOP is trying so hard to deny the voting rights of African-Americans, Latinos and young people with such bogus measures as insisting that each voter have a photo ID. The results of the recent Iowa caucus show that Mitt Romney did not actually win, but instead finished behind or tied with Rick Santorum. This proves again that the GOP, adept at rigging elections, will do whatever it can to suppress votes to achieve fraudulent outcomes.

CECIL HARRIS, VIA E-MAIL

Lawmakers in the pocket of Hollywood

I'm distressed that so many have voiced support for the SOPA/PIPA legislation, as a careful reading of the proposed bills show a deeply flawed effort to address the genuine problem of online piracy. But giving the federal government carte blanche to seize foreign website IPs, eliminate existing Safe Harbor and Fair Use practices and put legal liability on American companies for possible copyright-infringing content from overseas strikes me as counterproductive. Ironically, it also interferes with foreign policy and cyber security, as it stifles software innovation and development with the threat of prosecution. Scrap it and start over.

JOSEPH CONNELL, VIA E-MAIL

Insider trading not applicable to pols?

After a five-year FBI investigation, seven Wall Street-types were charged with insider trading of hedge funds. But according to a recent episode of 60 Minutes, if you are a member of Congress insider trading rules do not apply. (Right, Nancy Pelosi?) Then again, Congress is not subject to ObamaCare either. But drone citizens will continue to munch junk food and get worked up about sports spectaculars while ignoring Obama's signing a bill that allows the government to lock up U.S. citizens without a trial!

JOSEPH DUPONT, VIA E-MAIL

'Good students are a breeze to teach'

Students' failures are teachers' faults. Hence, teachers need to be evaluated and good teachers compensated. Unfortunately, good students are a breeze to teach, and the teachers that need to be compensated are those who deal with uninterested, failing students who are disruptive, disrespectful and undisciplined. Parents have given up their responsibility of nurturing their children to the teachers. The duty of the teacher is only to teach, not to babysit. Parents expect their children to learn in school. However, when children don't show up in class, when they show up without books or pencils, when they come to school only to socialize and disrupt the classroom, no matter how good he or she is, there is not much a teacher can do.

CONSUELO ALMONTE, VIA E-MAIL

Paula Deen reaps what she has sown

Paula Deen is a talentless hack who uses all things fattening and health-destroying to sell her brand. In her world, butter and heavy cream take the place of ability. She is all about the buck, never mind that her cooking style is deadly.

PEG THOMPSON, VIA E-MAIL

E-mail your letters: **letters@metro.us**

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words.
Metro reserves the right to edit all letters.
Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** Because you'll be as much of a pragmatist as a visionary, your hopes and aspirations will be easily realized. This combination always brings gangbusters results.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** Even if it takes two or three tries, major achievements will be possible for you. However, be prepared to circumvent some obstacles that might block your path.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Dealings you have with a large organization, such as a company or the government, will work out better than you think. Be patient and let the big dogs set the pace.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** This is an unusual day, when even a bum deal can be renegotiated and work out quite well for you. Don't be afraid to ask for the terms you want, but then be patient and let events establish how things play out.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** You enjoy being your own person and doing your own thing — but you don't mind being a team player either, which is fortunate because at this point you'll fare better in a group.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** It looks like you'll be given a second chance to capitalize on an opportunity that you previously turned down.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** Treat whatever transpires like a game. This doesn't imply that you should not be serious when it's called for. It's merely a means for not letting anything overwhelm you.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** Conditions in general look pretty good for you. However, your best opportunities are likely to be in areas where you can either make or save money. Capitalize on it.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** Don't allow people challenging your ideas or opinions to irritate you. Use any dispute as a means to better explain your position and to showcase your points more effectively.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Financial currents are running in your favor, making you luckier than usual with all money matters. Use this to further feather your nest instead of depending on what the wind brings in.

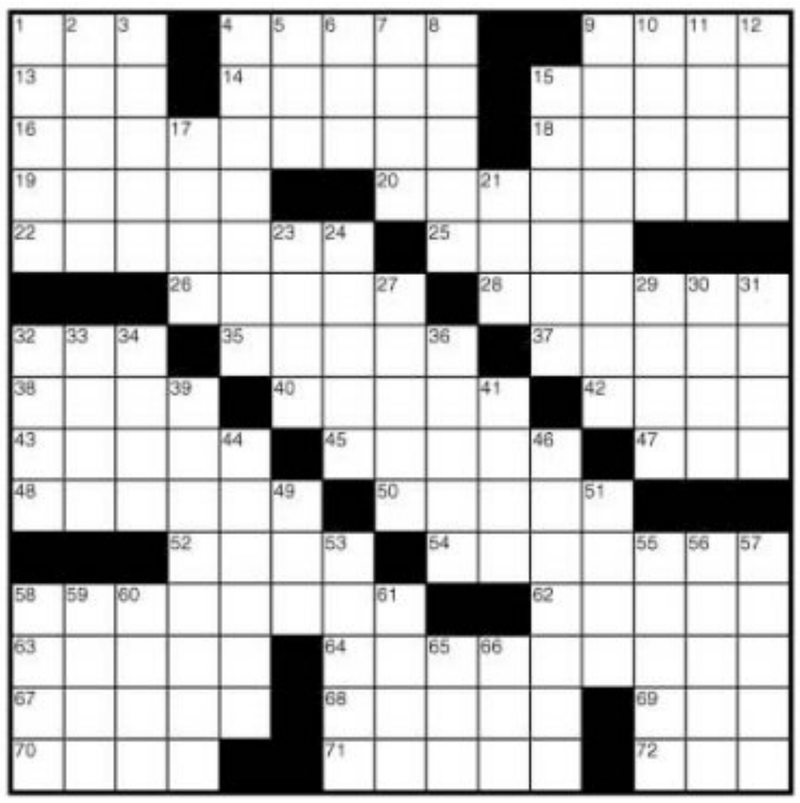
♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** You can substantially enhance your probabilities for success by dealing solely with the person who calls the shots. Jump over subordinates and drive right to the hoop.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** Initially, you might feel imposed upon when asked to do something for another, but once the dust settles you'll discover that you're the one who ends up benefiting the most.

BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Across
1 Bird's crop
4 Less contaminated
9 Autograph site
13 "Exodus" character
14 Pablo's girl
15 Rum mixers
16 King Arthur's surname
18 __ apso
19 Bodies of water
20 Tall beer glass
22 Main part
25 John, in Germany
26 Factories
28 Travel downer (2 wds.)
32 Cousins of "um"
35 Strode nervously
37 City near Incheon
38 Humor
40 Sourdough
42 Non-flying bird
43 Importuned
45 Generous one
47 Playing marble
48 Forested
50 Works, as yeast
52 Actor __ Sharif
54 Sweet wine
58 Put in office
62 Radius companions
63 Conclusion
64 Almond pastries (2 wds.)
67 Cut of meat
68 Sharp, as hearing
69 Green shade
70 B-movie crook
71 Walkie-talkie OK
72 Have a go at

Down
1 It may be tapped
2 Districts
3 Forty __
4 Root vegetable
5 "Pulp Fiction" name
6 18-wheeler
7 Freud's concerns
8 Kind of dressing
9 Helped with the show (hyph.)
10 Bates or King
11 Return env.
12 Romanov title
15 Genetic copies
17 Consider
21 Mecca pilgrimage
23 Close-mouthed person
24 Heston title role (2 wds.)
27 Monsieur, in Madrid
29 Come into view
30 Import vehicle
31 Whipped-cream serving
32 They call 'em like they see 'em
33 Grail descriptor
34 Erosion loss
36 Levi Strauss stock
39 Giving, as time
41 Sub __ (secretly)
44 Beautiful cloth
46 Calorie loser
49 Natalie's father
51 Order to a broker
53 Construction rod
55 Not suitable
56 Less cooked
57 Mineral analysis
58 Not certain
59 Longest river
60 Minor setback
61 1920s look
65 Mo. with no holidays
66 Hwy.



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5								
9			3	2	1		6	
2		3	5		4			

SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

8	7		5					
		9		2	7	8		
2					6		5	
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3	5			4			7	1
4		7		3				
	3		8					5
		5	9	1		3		
					3		8	9

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to Thursday's crossword

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

SUDOKU SOULTIONS: **WWW.METRO.US/PUZZLES**

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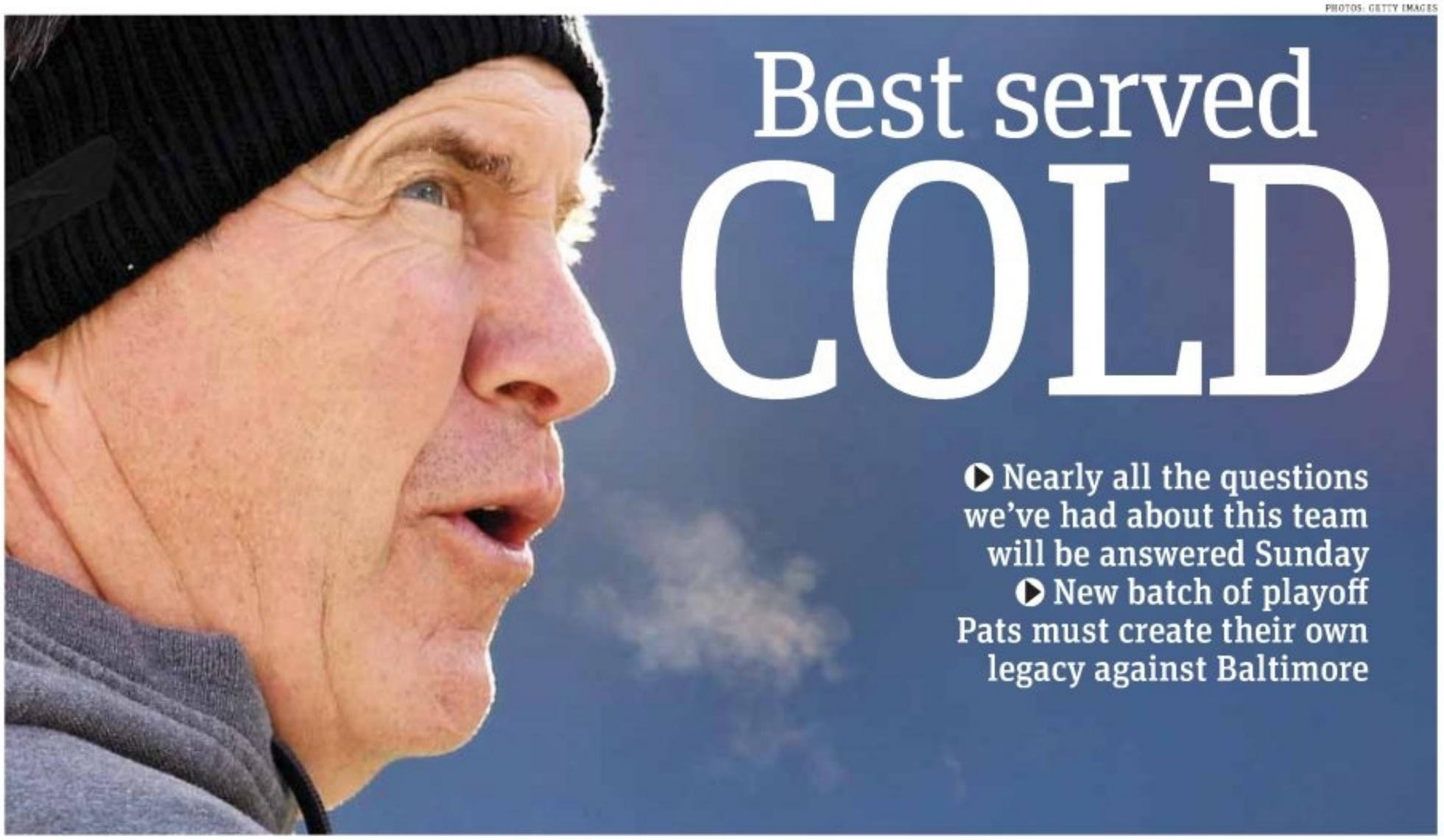
NFL PREVIEW

WEEKEND
JANUARY 20-22, 2012

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

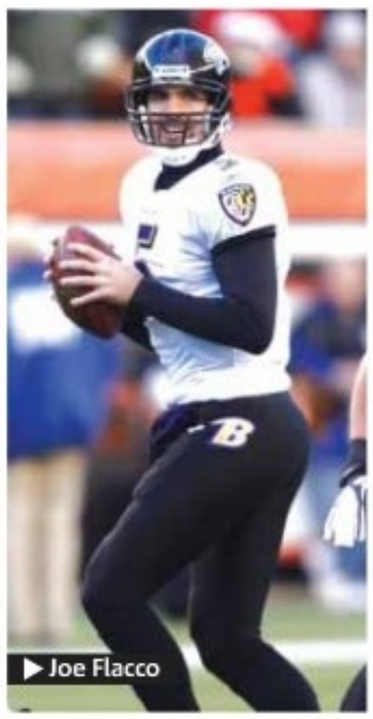


Best served COLD

- Nearly all the questions we've had about this team will be answered Sunday
- New batch of playoff Pats must create their own legacy against Baltimore

Metro gives you three things to look for this Sunday as the Baltimore Ravens invade Gillette Stadium to take on the New England Patriots for the AFC championship and a trip to Super Bowl XLVI (3 p.m., CBS):

JIMMY TOSCANO
sports@metro.us


▶ Joe Flacco

3 THINGS TO LOOK OUT FOR

1 Bump 'n grind

The over/under for Sunday's Patriots-Ravens game is 50.5, and if I were a betting man, I might be leaning towards the under.

Why?

Well, for one, the Ravens defense is the real deal. While they won't shut down the Patriots offense, reaching 30 points will be an extremely tough task. In fact, the Ravens have touched 30 points just once since Week 8.

This game will be a grind on both sides, with big defensive stands occurring more often than not. The Pats offense should prevail over Baltimore's defense, but don't expect another six-touchdown day.

On the other side, Joe Flacco should see some openings here and there, but in the end his numbers will be pedestrian.

2 Who am I?

You'll never hear a Patriots defensive back calling out Tom Brady.

But in Baltimore — where the roles seem to be flipped — that's exactly what happened with Ed Reed and Joe Flacco this past week.

Reed essentially said Flacco seemed rattled out on the field by the Texans defense last Sunday. Obviously, that didn't go over well.

So what happens if Flacco throws a pick on the first drive? Do Reed's comments creep into his head? Reed's a first ballot Hall-of-Famer, but he may be helping out the Patriots defense with his comments this week. On the other hand, maybe it lights a bigger fire under Flacco.

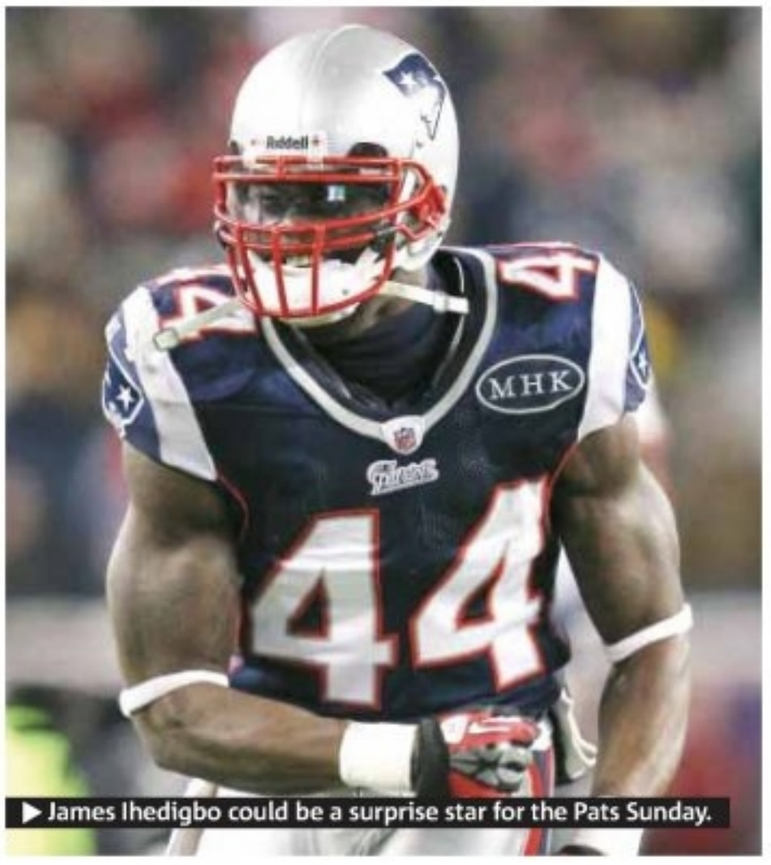
3 Young and hungry

On Sunday, the Patriots will honor four postseason heroes, including Tedy Bruschi, Ty Law, and Troy Brown. You know their stories. Now, it's time for the 2011 Pats team to create its own legacy. How will this team be remembered?

"I think that is something that everybody kind of wants, to make your own little niche in the organization and kind of be remembered," second-year linebacker and undrafted free agent Dane Fletcher said.

"One of my coaches always said, 'do not be soon forgotten, and long remembered,' and I kind of live by that."

There aren't many holdovers from the glory years. Now is this new crop's time to shine.


▶ James Ihedigbo could be a surprise star for the Pats Sunday.

The immortals

Ray Lewis, Tom Brady and Ed Reed are all-time greats Could be final cracks at Lombardi Trophy One more SB ring would cement legacies

It's been 11 years now for 36-year-old Ray Lewis.

To add some context, many Baltimore fans that were in elementary school when the Ravens won their first and only Lombardi Trophy are now graduating college or are firmly part of the greater D.C. work force.

It's been seven years for 34-year-old Tom Brady.

To add some context, no one had yet heard of the term SpyGate and Gisele Bundchen was just some unattainable supermodel that most football followers had never heard of.

Ed Reed, 33, will go down as one of, if not the, finest safety to ever play in the league. But he is ringless.

Lewis, Brady and Reed are three of the greatest players to ever play their respective positions but a win this Sunday and another one in two weeks would end a lot of debates.

The three players will also be competing against the ghosts of playoffs past and the elite in NFL history this Sunday (3 p.m., CBS). All three are certainly aware of the stakes and that this opportunity won't be there in, say, 2015 or '16.

"It's kind of hard to think about Father Time," Lewis said. "I don't have time to think about when it's over to do this or when it's time to do that. When it's over, it's over. Everybody here has to appreciate that great warriors fight until the end. Those are the ones you remember."

Brady, in his Belichickian podiumspeak, had this to say:

"This is nothing about last week or last season or last month or 10 years ago," Brady told WEEI sports radio. "It's about this week. The clock's ticking. And every second that goes by, we're one second closer to getting to that game."

Perhaps Reed said it most succinct:

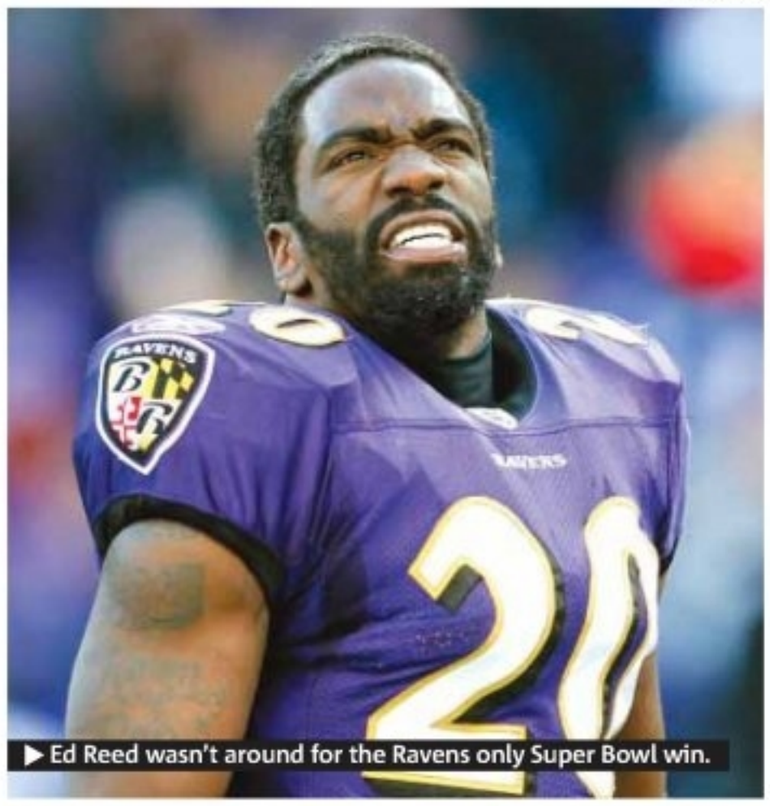
"I'm getting old," Reed told Sports Illustrated this week. "I understand it. One day it won't be me up here. It'll be another safety in Baltimore."

MATT BURKE
matthew.burke@metro.us

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Tom Brady

GETTY IMAGES



▶ Ed Reed wasn't around for the Ravens only Super Bowl win.

▶ This just may be the last go 'round for Ray Lewis.

Still kickin'

Despite being in their mid-30s, Ray Lewis, Tom Brady and Ed Reed each had superb 2011 seasons:

- **Ray Lewis** still managed to post 95 tackles in 2011 despite missing four games due to a toe injury.
- **Tom Brady** was the NFL MVP in 2010 but put up even better numbers in 2011. Brady passed for 5,235 yards and 39 TDs this past year.
- **Ed Reed** set the tone for the Ravens' 2011 season with two interceptions against Pittsburgh on opening day.

Rivers insists he's on same page as Ainge

The Celtics' early season troubles have led to fans and media alike speculating about the future of "The Big 3" of Paul Pierce, Kevin Garnett and Ray Allen.

After the Celts dismissed the Toronto Raptors on Wednesday night, a report came out in The Boston Globe that had comments from president of basketball operations Danny Ainge talking about a similar period in franchise history.

"I sat with Red [Auerbach] during a Christmas party [in the early 1990s]," Ainge recalled. "Red was talking to Larry [Bird], Kevin [McHale] and myself and there was a lot of trade discussion at the time and Red actually shared some of the trade discussions. And I told Red, what are you doing? Why are you waiting?"

Ainge said that Auerbach had a chance to trade Bird and McHale for younger players like Chuck Person, Detlef Schrempf and Sam Perkins. Auerbach, however, remained loyal to his two aging stars. He allowed both to retire as Celtics but those non-moves led to the Celtics being irrelevant for well beyond a decade.

Ainge also stated that today's NBA landscape is much different and that trades that swap young, up-and-coming talent for aging, accomplished stars rarely happen.

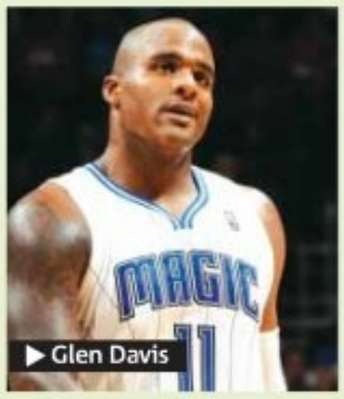
Head coach Doc Rivers addressed the rumors at practice Thursday.

"You don't ever like hearing that, but listen, Danny and I are always on the same page," Rivers told ESPN.com at practice on Thursday. "I don't think he meant in any way that he was trying to trade anybody. I think that was how it was looked at. I would say it's a very strong possibility that we're going to get this together and a stronger possibility that every single guy will be here." METRO/MB

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Doc Rivers

News in brief



▶ Glen Davis

Orlando's Big Baby with a big oops

Former Celtics forward Glen "Big Baby" Davis certainly has an interesting way of expressing his anger.

After being called for a foul Wednesday night against the Spurs, Davis pulled down his pants in front of the thousands in attendance and the act was caught on TV.

The act revealed black spandex and he was called for a technical foul.

Davis and the Magic invade TD Garden to take on the Celtics Monday.

Mayweather gives Pacquiao a ring

Floyd Mayweather Jr. followed up his teasing tweet with a phone call this week to fellow welterweight champion Manny Pacquiao.

According to ESPN.com, Mayweather spoke directly to his rival in the Philippines and challenged him to a fight on May 5 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

"They spoke," said Leonard Ellerbe, one of Mayweather's advisers. "Floyd called him last night and the context of the conversation is between the two of them."

Mayweather told Ellerbe the specifics of the call but did not want his adviser to go public with the details. METRO

Rondo doubtful for tonight's game vs. Suns

Celtics point guard Rajon Rondo avoided a possible major injury against Toronto on Wednesday night when he landed on his right wrist late in the third quarter.

Rondo stayed in the game to attempt two free throws but left the game soon after.

"I'm still sore, I took like 10 Advil, so I'm OK," Rondo told ESPN.com Thursday. "I don't know about [Friday's game against Phoenix]7. Hopefully I get a good night's rest. I'll be in treatment pretty much all day today. Other than that, we'll see tomorrow." METRO

15 Celtics point guard Rajon Rondo is averaging 15.0 points per game this season and 9.4 assists. His assist high in the 2011-12 season came against Washington with 14.

DIFFERENCE MAKERS

Brady, Manning, Lewis, Willis deserve top billing this weekend, but don't sleep on these impact players
Plenty of diamonds in the rough on display in NFL's final four Defensive playmakers take center stage

Tom Brady. Eli Manning. Ray Lewis. Patrick Willis.

Those are the names the TV broadcast teams will be drooling over and shoving down the public's throats this weekend — and rightfully so. They are four of the best players in the entire NFL.

However, the NFC and AFC championship games are going to come down to the play of the less heralded stars. Guys that are bouncing back from injuries and offseason issues, and some rising stars who are coming off breakout regular seasons.

We take a look at eight players that could make a huge impact in Sunday's games and maybe even decide who ultimately advances to the Super Bowl.

Victor Cruz

WIDE RECEIVER, GIANTS
The undrafted free agent out of UMass had his coming-out party in a Week 3 win over Philadelphia, catching two long touchdowns and making Nnamdi Asomugha trip over himself. Cruz's 1,536 receiving yards is a single-season Giants franchise record — and his salsa dance (used as a scoring celebration) brings all the girls to the yard.

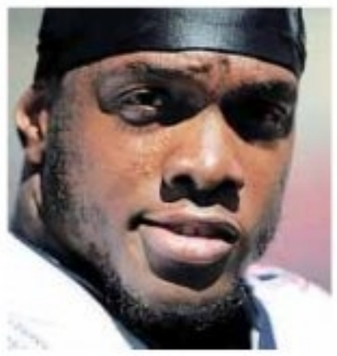
Corey Webster

CORNERBACK, GIANTS
New York's secondary was supposed to be vulnerable, a weakness even on an otherwise stout defense.

But Webster has defied that logic. He finished the regular season with a career-high six interceptions and has been even better in the postseason, shutting down Falcons stud Roddy White and then Packers burner Greg Jennings.

This week, he is expected to guard Michael Crabtree, who was held to just one catch for 21 yards when the two teams met on Nov. 13.

Mark Anderson



DEFENSIVE END, PATRIOTS
Call him Tebow Kryptonite. The 6-foot-4, 255-pounder racked up 10 sacks in 14 games for the Pats, and smothered Broncos QB Tim Tebow in two wins. Anderson sacked him twice in Week 15 and forced a fumble in last week's playoff win. With Andre Carter (quad) out, Anderson is the Pats' most prolific pass-rusher. Alex Smith beware.

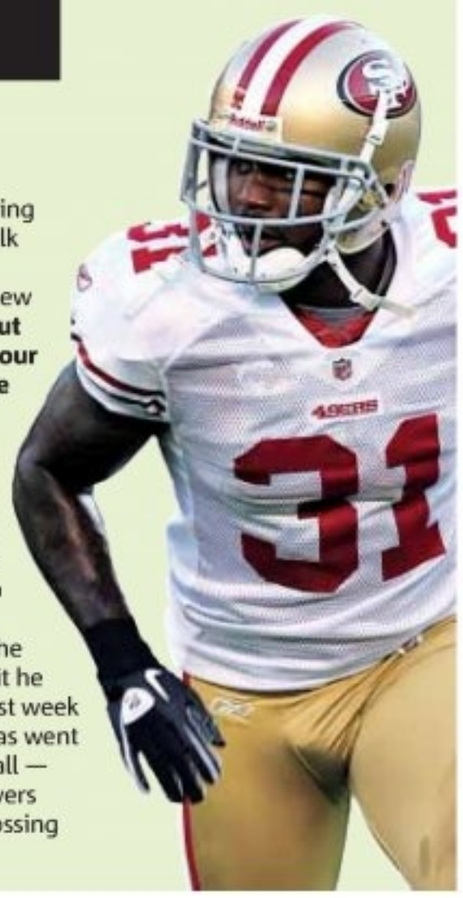
Donte Whitner

DEAL:

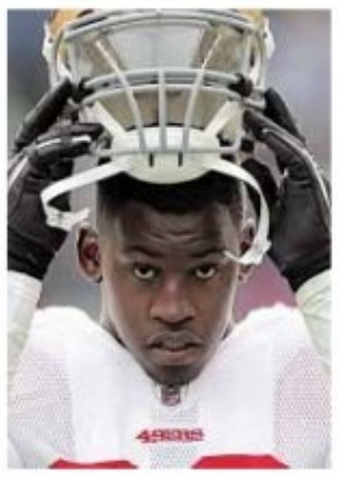
Whitner, the 49ers' starting strong safety , likes to talk some trash. His tweet Tuesday, after beating New Orleans, simply said, **"Out here in San Fran we let our Shoulder Pads do all the talking....haha."**

ANALYSIS:

With so many Pro Bowl selections on San Fran's defense (four of them to be exact), Whitner sometimes gets lost in the shuffle. However, that hit he put on Pierre Thomas last week — the one where Thomas went limp and fumbled the ball — might have Giants receivers thinking twice about crossing paths with him.



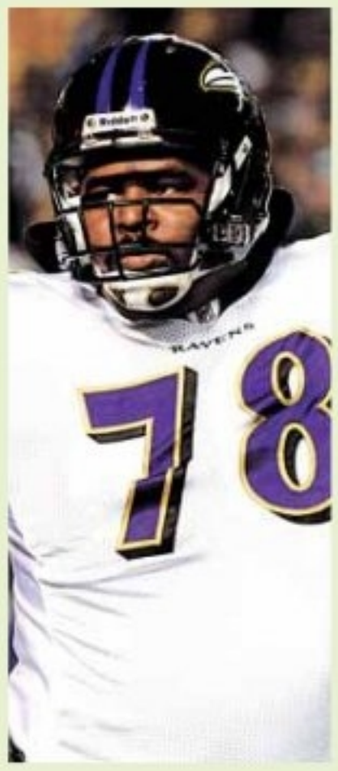
Aldon Smith



LINEBACKER, 49ERS
The seventh overall pick in the NFL draft has lived up to the hype. Drawing comparisons to Dallas' DeMarcus Ware, Smith set the 49ers record for most sacks in a season (14) and fell half a sack short of the all-time rookie record.

Smith is viewed by many as a situational pass-rusher. He was on the field for less than 50 percent of the 49ers' defensive plays and notched 13 of his 14 sacks against (think Giants here) three wide-receiver sets.

Bryant McKinnie



LEFT TACKLE, RAVENS
He was left for dead after a weight problem and a penchant for skipping practices — McKinnie was kicked off the 2010 Pro Bowl team for missing meetings — forced him out of Minnesota.

But McKinnie has slimmed down (officially listed at a svelte 360 pounds) and looks like the Pro Bowl tackle he once was, now protecting Ravens QB Joe Flacco's blind side.

Ironic since McKinnie's success helped move "The Blind Side" star Michael Oher to right tackle.

Aaron Hernandez

TIGHT END, PATRIOTS
While fellow stud tight end Rob Gronkowski gets all the headlines (and records), Hernandez might be the bigger threat overall.

The 6-foot-1, 245-pounder is fleet (4.6 40 time) and can line up at four different positions, including tight end, blocking fullback, slot receiver and wide receiver.

72
Percentage of plays that New England has used multiple-TE formations over the past two seasons, which is the most in the NFL.

Lardarius Webb

CORNERBACK, RAVENS
We all know how disruptive safety Ed Reed (he had one pick last week and dropped two more) can be, but Webb has developed into one of the better corners.

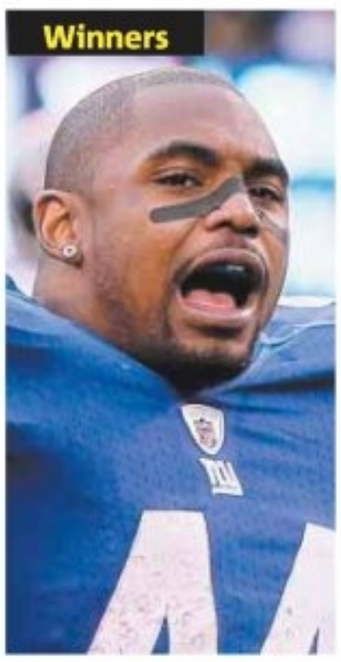
"Sometimes I'm mad and I want to curse him out. But it all pays off during the week," Webb said of Reed.

He recorded five interceptions in the regular season and has two already this postseason, both while blanketing Houston stud receiver Andre Johnson last week.

Super Bowl predictions sure to go wrong ...

The grid: We'd bet it with our money ★★★ | We'd bet it with your money ★★ | Fat chance ★

Winners

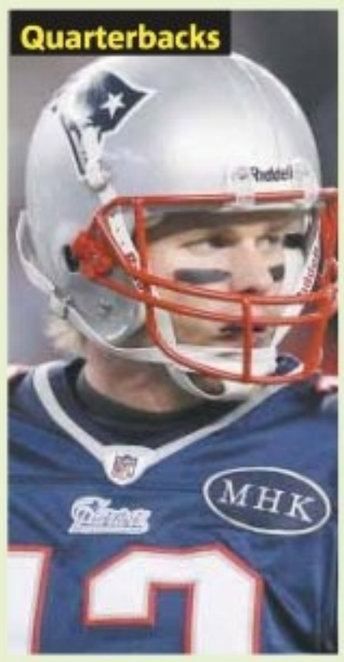


Super Bowl picks?
Answer: Giants over Patriots
By: Mark Osborne, Metro NY Sports Editor
Confidence Level: ★★★
Eli Manning wins his second Super Bowl over the Patriots, but this time winning the NFC title is tougher than taking home the Lombardi Trophy. He throws for 300 yards on the Pats' secondary.

Super Bowl picks?
Answer: Ravens over 49ers
By: Mike Greger, Metro Philly Sports Editor
Confidence Level: ★★★
Joe Flacco vs. Alex Smith? The unlikeliest Super Bowl matchup in recent history becomes a reality (as commissioner Roger Goodell cries in his craft beer). Defense still wins championships in the NFL.

Super Bowl picks?
Answer: Patriots over Giants
By: Matt Burke, Metro Boston Sports Editor
Confidence Level: ★★★
Tom Brady gets some revenge from Super Bowl XLII as New England's two young star tight ends, Rob Gronkowski and Aaron Hernandez, come up big as usual.

Quarterbacks



Who has more passing yards in their title game: Manning or Brady?
Answer: Tom Brady
Confidence Level: ★★
Both guys could struggle. The Ravens' passing defense is third in the NFL, while the Niners are 16th. So why do we like Brady? Because Bill Belichick will run up the score even if they're winning by 28.

Who has more passing yards: Smith or Flacco?
Answer: Joe Flacco
Confidence Level: ★
Now here's the real question. Forget about those lousy Super Bowl MVPs. Smith faces the fourth-worst pass defense in the NFL. Flacco faces the second worst ... ever. Yes, we'll say that again — the second worst ever.

New faces

Who will be the breakout star?
Answer: Patrick Willis
Confidence Level: ★★
If you don't know the name already, you will by Sunday night. The over/under on mentions of Niners' linebacker Patrick Willis by FOX's Troy Aikman is set at 37.5. We advise you to take the over. He will be tackling lots of people.

Is Jim Harbaugh the Coach of the Year?
Answer: Yes. Obviously.
Confidence Level: ★★★
Our scale only goes up to three stars, but feel free to bet your house on this one. Harbaugh took over an awful San Francisco team that was badly in need of a quarterback to replace bust Alex Smith. And then they won 13 games. With Smith.

Odds Tim Tebow gets more airtime than Victor Cruz?
Answer: 4-to-1
Confidence Level: ★★
All the studio shows, most specifically CBS and ESPN, have been pushing to get Tebow on. No word so far. But there's a reasonable chance the second-year QB gets more airtime than the second-year Giants wideout.

Shenanigans

Who makes a dumb Super Bowl comment?
Answer: Antrel Rolle
Confidence Level: ★★
The Giants safety is always ready to say something brash and stupid. But mostly stupid. We would guarantee this, but he has to actually make the Super Bowl. If so, it is totally a given.

Gisele is hard to beat in the WAG category. Tom Brady is one very lucky man.

Commentary

Over/under on Super Bowl XLII mentions?
Answer: 102.5
Confidence Level: ★★
Not sure if you've heard this, but the Giants went on a similar playoff run in 2008. Oh, you had? The only real question is whether Joe Buck and Troy Aikman break it in the NFC title game alone. We say yes.

Random

Which city has the worst group of fans?
Answer: San Francisco
Confidence Level: ★★
Talk about a tough one. Do we go with pompous New Yorkers? MASSholes? Have you seen "The Wire"? We choose the Niners fans because someone actually got shot at a preseason game. This was a football game. Calm down people.

Best WAG left in the postseason?
Answer: Gisele Bundchen
Confidence Level: ★★★
This wasn't as easy as you might think. Osi Umenyiora's girlfriend Selita Ebanks, also a Victoria's Secret model is second and Anna Burns, dating Wes Welker is third. But we have to go with the classically beautiful Mrs. Tom Brady.

Which mistimed commercial will cause terrible suffering?
Answer: State Farm
Confidence Level: ★
Yes, the Discount Double Check was funny once. Not so much anymore for Green Bay fans who thought they were going back-to-back. The other option — Pepsi Max's terrible Rex Ryan and Mark Sanchez abomination.

Not too shabby

Patriots secondary jelling at right time Wilfork one of the premier defensive players in the entire NFL

So, the Patriots defense is going to blow this team's chance at a fourth Super Bowl title, eh?

They're going to give up 500 passing yards, 40 points, and blow the last goal-line stand of the game against the Ravens?

Based on the way the national media portrays the Pats D, you'd have every reason to think those things. Heck, Troy Aikman said the Patriots had the worst defense to ever make the playoffs.

Come. On.

Listen, the Pats defense isn't going to break any records anytime soon, but worst ever? Not even close. In fact, there are a lot of stats that would prove the Patriots defense is satisfactory. And with an offense like the one they possess, satisfactory is more than enough.

Let's get this out of the way right now: They ranked 31st in total yardage allowed. Big whoop. Teams threw on the Patriots 619 times in the regular season, fourth most in the NFL. Eventually those yards will add up.

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But did yards given up translate to points? Nope. When it came to points allowed, the Patriots gave up 21.4, putting them in the top half of the league. In fact, the Patriots have only given up more than seven points in the second half once in the last nine weeks.

"Each week we are getting better," Vince Wilfork said. "That's our goal to get better, and each week we have. It's something that we work for and that's what we'll continue to do. The better we can be prepared, the better we'll be on Sunday. That's where we're at right now."

Wilfork is having arguably his best season as a Patriot. On top of the 52 tackles, he had two interceptions and one forced fumble during the regular season. That's three takeaways out of an AFC-leading 34.

And when it comes to run defense, the Pats are relatively stable. They'll have to be on Sunday because of Ray Rice.

"I think it all starts with [Rice]," Wilfork said this week. "After him, it starts with the quarterback. … We have to do a good job of slowing [Rice] down and hopefully everything else will fall in place for us."

JIMMY TOSCANO
sports@metro.us

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Jerod Mayo has been a leader on the improving Patriots defense.

Super Bowl matchups we'd love to see

Patriots-Giants
The rematch of Super Bowl XLII, would give Patriots fans a chance to exorcise some of the demons of 2007.

Giants fans would salivate over the chance to forever be able to claim domination over their neighbors to the north.

The rest of the country may be sick of the whole "New York-Boston thing," but in the Northeast, it's still the hottest matchup going.

Ravens-49ers
The Harbaugh Bowl between head coaches Jim (San Fran) and John (Baltimore) would spark sibling rivalries across the country.

As overexposed as the storyline would eventually become (you're sort of already getting a taste), when you truly sit back and think about it, it's a remarkable story.

Patriots-49ers
The dynasty of the 2000s vs. the dynasty of the 1980s. Tom Brady would be facing the team he once dreamed would draft him.

Brady would be seeking his fourth Super Bowl ring. His boyhood idol, Joe Montana, already has four.

Giants-Ravens
Nostalgiawise, this one wouldn't conjure up many pleasant memories. Mainly because Super Bowl XXXV wasn't that entertaining.

From a pure football standpoint, however, this game would be a great one. It would certainly quiet all the pass-happy, new age NFL fans.

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